



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

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Randy Rowse
Mayor

March 18, 2026

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The Honorable Lori Wilson
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2346 (Wilson) – Vehicles: Electric Bicycles and Speed Limits
City of Santa Barbara – Notice of Support**

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 2346, which modernizes California's electric bicycle safety framework and provides local governments with practical tools to improve safety for riders and the broader community.

Santa Barbara has long prioritized active transportation, safe streets, and climate-forward mobility options. Our community has embraced electric bicycles as a sustainable alternative to vehicle travel, particularly among students, families, and commuters. However, we have also experienced firsthand the rapid growth of higher-powered e-bikes and the corresponding rise in safety concerns, particularly involving youth riders and high-speed operation in shared spaces.

AB 2346 strikes an important balance between supporting innovation and ensuring public safety. Requiring speedometers and integrated lighting on new e-bikes beginning in 2029 will improve rider awareness and visibility. Clear labeling and point-of-sale disclosures will help consumers and parents better understand classification, speed capability, wattage, helmet requirements, and age restrictions. These consumer transparency measures are critical as technology continues to evolve beyond what many families reasonably expect.

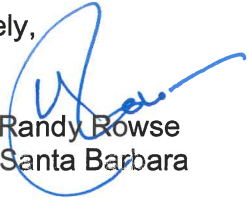
We also strongly support the bill's provisions authorizing local jurisdictions to set speed limits on bicycle paths and multiuse trails, with appropriate signage. Santa Barbara maintains a robust network of bike paths and shared-use coastal and recreational trails that serve residents and visitors alike. Providing local authority to set reasonable speed limits in high-pedestrian or high-conflict areas enhances our ability to protect vulnerable users while maintaining access for riders.

Additionally, establishing clear statewide speed limits on sidewalks and for younger riders provides consistency and reinforces safe operating norms. These guardrails are particularly important given increasing reports of device modification and the marketing of high-speed devices that exceed traditional e-bike expectations.

AB 2346 reflects an evidence-based and prevention-focused approach to a rapidly evolving mobility landscape. By combining equipment standards, consumer transparency, youth protections, and local control, the bill supports safer integration of electric bicycles into California's transportation system.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Barbara supports AB 2346 and appreciates your leadership in advancing thoughtful, balanced e-bike safety reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Randy Rowse', is written over the typed name below.

Mayor Randy Rowse
City of Santa Barbara

cc: Senate President Pro Tempore, Monique Limon
Assembly Member Gregg Hart