

26 **WHEREAS**, increasingly powerful models of e-motos, some with top
27 speeds exceeding 60 miles per hour, are sized and aggressively marketed to attract
28 underage riders; and

29 **WHEREAS**, some e-moto manufacturers and retailers may mislead
30 consumers by calling their products e-bikes, and non-operable “ghost pedal” kits
31 are sold to disguise e-motos as street legal e-bikes; and

32 **WHEREAS**, in the City, e-motos have become increasingly popular with
33 unlicensed, underage minors as a means of local transportation and recreation; and

34 **WHEREAS**, there have been numerous, documented incidents in the City
35 of underage riders dangerously operating e-motos on City streets, sidewalks,
36 shared use pathways, bike lanes, park trails, and environmentally sensitive areas;
37 and

38 **WHEREAS**, recent incidents of damage to private property and City water
39 quality infrastructure have been linked to the repeated use of e-motos; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the improper operation of e-motos jeopardizes the safety and
41 well-being of law-abiding motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians; and

42 **WHEREAS**, City Code and administrative rules have not yet caught up
43 with the emergence of e-motos and are silent on the conditions under which e-moto
44 operation is legal and allowed versus illegal or prohibited; and

45 **WHEREAS**, public education is urgently needed regarding the distinct
46 definitions of e-motos and the classes of e-bikes, as well as their safe and legal use,
47 to address substantial confusion among parents, youth, and other consumers; and

48 **WHEREAS**, there is currently limited enforcement of laws related to the
49 use of e-motos; and

50 **WHEREAS**, there are few appropriate, publicly accessible facilities
51 available for young riders seeking to legally and safely utilize e-motos as a form of
52 off-road recreation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

53 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

54 The City Manager is directed to review and initiate updates to City Code,
55 administrative rules, and any pertinent City provision applicable to emerging
56 mobility technologies to include, define, and appropriately regulate the group of
57 throttle-powered, two-wheeled electric vehicles without functional pedals,
58 alternately referred to as electric dirt bikes, electric pocket bikes, electric mini
59 bikes, electric mini motorbikes, electric mini motorcycles, electric motorcycles, e-
60 motos, and other similar vehicles, collectively known as e-motos. These updates
61 should promote public safety by:

- 62 1. Establishing the conditions under which e-moto operation is legal versus
63 illegal or prohibited, including aspects such as:
- 64 ○ Vehicular characteristics;
 - 65 ○ Operator age;
 - 66 ○ License, registration, title, and insurance requirements consistent with
67 state and federal law;
 - 68 ○ Helmet and/or other safety equipment requirements; and
 - 69 ○ Location of operation, considering locations where operation of a
70 traditional motor vehicle is not permitted, such as bike lanes,
71 sidewalks, trails, drainage or water quality infrastructure, or public
72 parkland.
- 73 2. Establishing or clarifying penalties for violating these local regulations,
74 as appropriate, and
- 75

- 76 3. Aligning with state and federal regulations and standards to the greatest
77 extent practical.

78 The City Manager is further directed to provide a report to Council on
79 these updates, including any recommended Code amendments, no later than
80 July 23, 2026.

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

82 The City Manager is directed to create a public awareness campaign to
83 educate residents and consumers on the safe and legal operations of e-motos,
84 including:

- 85 1. Distinct definitions of e-motos and the three classes of e-bikes;
86 2. City Code and administrative rules, as described above, as well as state
87 laws, regarding the conditions under which e-moto operation is legal
88 versus illegal or prohibited;
89 3. Potential penalties for violating local and state laws;
90 4. Potential liability for parents or guardians who knowingly allow or
91 encourage their minor children to illegally operate e-motos; and
92 5. Lawful alternatives for families with children to consider, such as
93 no/low-power vehicles and/or designated off-street recreation location
94 options for e-motos, BMX bikes, and bicycle racing.

95 The City Manager is directed to begin this public awareness campaign
96 immediately; as the City Code and administrative rules are updated, enhance and
97 adapt the campaign accordingly; and provide a report to Council on the campaign
98 progress no later than August 27, 2026.

100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

101 The City Manager is directed to review Austin Police Department (APD)
102 officer training and general orders regarding:

- 103 1. Classification and use of e-motorcycles and e-dirt bikes;
- 104 2. Differences between electric bicycles and electric motorcycles/dirt bikes;
- 105 3. Enforcement of local ordinances and state laws relating to the operation
106 of e-motorcycles and e-dirt bikes; and
- 107 4. Enforcement procedures involving unlicensed minors under the age of 15
108 operating e-motorcycles and e-dirt bikes.

109 The City Manager is directed to report to Council the findings of the APD
110 review, along with any recommended changes, no later than August 27, 2026.

111 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

112 The City Manager is directed to explore the feasibility of establishing a
113 public recreation area designated for the enjoyment of e-motos, potentially
114 including identifying existing or future parkland, owned by the City, another
115 governmental entity, or a nonprofit partner that may be suitable for this purpose.
116 The City Manager is directed to provide a progress report to Council no later than
117 September 24, 2026.

118
119 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk