USE OF PUBLIC ROADWAYS BY MOTORCYCLES, SCOOTERS, MOPEDS AND SIMILAR DEVICES

As new transportation options continue to grow in popularity, it's important for riders to understand the laws designed to keep everyone safe. Whether you ride a motorcycle, e-bike, motorized scooter, moped, or electric motorcycle, each vehicle has different requirements under California law.

The Riverside Police Department encourages all riders to know the rules, wear the proper safety equipment, obey traffic laws, and ride responsibly. By making safe choices and sharing the road, we can all help keep Riverside's roadways safe.

E-BIKES

What are the different types of e-bikes?

CLASS 1 E-Bike	Pedal assisted bike that can reach a maximum of 20 mph.
CLASS 2 E-Bike	Throttle assisted bike that can reach a maximum of 20 mph.
CLASS 3 E-Bike	Pedal assisted bike that can reach a maximum of 28 mph.

What age does my child have to be to ride one of these bikes?

- For Class 1 & 2 there are no age restrictions. Anyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.
- If you operate a Class 3 e-bike, you must be at least 16 years old and wear a helmet.

Where can I ride these bikes and what laws are there?

- E-Bike riders must follow the same rules of the road as bicyclists and motorists.
- E-Bikes are not allowed on bike, hike, or equestrian paths.

MOTORCYCLES

Motorcycles offer a thrilling and fuel-efficient way to travel. Because riders are more exposed, following safe riding practices are essential to reduce the risk of crashes and injuries.

Vehicle requirements:

- Insurance required - CVC 16028(a).
- License plate required; must be securely fastened to the vehicle - CVC 5200-5201.
- Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) or DOT compliant motorcycle helmet.

M1 endorsement requirements:

- Pass the MC written exam.
- Pass DMV riding skills test or complete a certified novice motorcycle training program.
- Riders under the age of 21 must successfully complete a CHP approved basic rider course.

Scan the QR code for the latest traffic safety laws, tips, and FAQs

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MOPEDS AND MOTORIZED BICYCLES

Mopeds and motorized bicycles are fuel-efficient vehicles that offer a convenient alternative to traditional cars especially for shorter distances. Following basic safety guidelines can help prevent accidents and ensure a smooth, enjoyable ride.

What are they equipped with?

- Fully operative pedals for human propulsion.
- Motor producing less than 4 gross brake horsepower and an automatic transmission.

Requirements:

- M1 or M2 license required.
- Insurance required - CVC-16028(a).
- Special license plate required - CVC 5030/5037.

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

Motorized scooters are any two-wheeled device that has handlebars and a floorboard designed to be stood upon when riding.

Riding requirements:

- Driver must have a valid driver's license or permit - CVC 21235(d).

Driving requirements:

- Cannot operate faster than 15mph - CVC 22411.
- May be operated on a bicycle path, trail, or bikeway, but not on a sidewalk - CVC 21235(g).
- **NO PASSENGERS ALLOWED**

ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES

An electric motorcycle (eMoto) is a two-wheeled off-highway vehicle designed primarily for off-road use. It is powered by an electric motor, has handlebars and a straddle seat, and is not equipped with pedals. Off-Highway Vehicle registration through the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is required before operating the vehicle where applicable.

Requirements to operate on public roads:

- Driver's license and M1 endorsement required - CVC 12500/12804(4).
- License plate required; must be securely fastened to the vehicle - CVC 5200-5201.
- Insurance required - CVC 16028(a).
- DOT-compliant motorcycle helmet required.

AT-A-GLANCE: WHICH RULES APPLY?

Requirement	E-Bike Class 1	E-Bike Class 2	E-Bike Class 3	Moped/ Motorized Bicycle	Motorized Scooter	Electric Motorcycle (E-Moto)	Motorcycle
Driver License Required	No	No	No	Yes (M1 or M2)	Yes (Driver license or permit)	Yes (M1)	Yes (M1)
Helmet Required	Under 18	Under 18	Yes	Yes	Recommended (Not required by law)	Yes	Yes
Registration/ License Plate	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Insurance Required	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Passengers Allowed	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes