



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

March 24, 2019

Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 7.1 Ordinance Repealing Article VI of Chapter 19 of the City Code and Adding a New Article VI Related to Bicycles, Electric Bicycles, Motorized Scooters, and Transportation Devices

Dear Mayor Matichak and City Council members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on proposed changes to Article VI of Chapter 19 in the City Code related to Bicycles, Electric Bicycles, Motorized Scooters, and Transportation Devices.

Almost all of Article VI has not been updated since 1960. Mountain View has changed considerably since then, with population growth more than doubling since that time. And expectations about use of alternative means of transportation (including walking) have increased. With more people opting to use devices other than vehicles to get to and from their destinations, rules about sharing provided infrastructure are sorely in need of updating to meet current requirements.

In 2018, City Staff developed a framework for updating the ordinance based on policy analysis and input from a community workshop, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (B/PAC), Youth Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, Downtown Committee, and City Council. This process has provided ample opportunity for thorough review by key stakeholders and the public. Accordingly, MVCSP strongly supports moving forward with approving proposed changes at this time.

The following specific changes to Article VI are most welcome in our opinion:

- SEC. 19.51. Definitions.
This section will help those needing to interpret what is discussed in Article VI now and in the future.
- SEC. 19.53. Operating bicycles, electric bicycles and transportation devices on sidewalks.
This section is essential to include in the interest of pedestrian safety. In particular, the inclusion

of “When operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, roller skates or skateboard upon a sidewalk, a person shall yield the right-of-way to persons not operating such devices.”

Most cities neighboring Mountain View have language about yielding to pedestrians in their codes, so it’s important that we have this coverage as well.

Other sections provide additional comprehensive coverage to bring the code changes up to date:

- SEC. 19.54. Operating transportation devices and motorized scooters on roadways.
This section will help to best ensure safety for the various kinds of device users on our roadways. Potential conflicts could present themselves where the kinds of devices used in our roadway spaces in addition to vehicles and bicycles will increase over time.
- SEC. 19.55. Use of bicycles, electric bicycles, motorized scooters, and transportation devices in any city-owned parking structures.
SEC 19.56. Use of bicycles, electric bicycles, motorized scooters and transportation devices in parks and other city facilities.
These sections provide coverage for facilities managed specifically by the City. This is important to include since the City has jurisdiction over these facilities that it does not have over privately-owned properties.
- SEC. 19.57. Bicycle parking spaces.
This section addresses the reality that finding and using bicycle parking facilities has become increasingly challenging. Ensuring that these facilities are used properly and efficiently by all is essential. Those who will benefit from the section include those who might be inconvenienced or exposed to hazards when devices are not parked correctly per the rules.

While we do not want to see a delay in approving the code changes now before you, we would like to suggest the following minor changes for consideration, particularly if any other text changes will be made:

- Modify the following section titles as shown below to be complete and better align across the sections:
 - SEC. 19.54. *Operating motorized scooters and transportation devices on roadways.*
 - SEC. 19.57. *Parking spaces for bicycles, electric bicycles, motorized scooters, and transportation devices.*
- Use "transportation devices" in the following instead of "roller skates or skateboard", as "transportation devices" is used elsewhere in the section:
SEC. 19.53. Operating bicycles, electric bicycles and transportation devices on sidewalks.
 - a. *When operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, **roller skates or skateboard** upon a sidewalk, a person shall exercise due care under the circumstances and conditions.*
 - b. *When operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, **roller skates or skateboard** upon a sidewalk, a person shall yield the right-of-way to persons not operating such devices.*"transportation devices" is used elsewhere in the section.
- To keep ordering consistent, put "motorized scooter" before "transportation device" in the following:
SEC. 19.57. Bicycle parking spaces.
 - b. *When official signs or markings restricting parking to bicycles are in place, no person shall park or stand any vehicle other than a bicycle, electric bicycle, **transportation device or motorized scooter** in such a space.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce England". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce England
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

Dan Rich, City Manager
Michael Fuller, Public Works Director
Dawn Cameron, Assistant Public Works Director
Nate Baird, Transportation Planner
Ria Hutabarat Lo, Transportation Manager
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (B/PAC)
Lisa Natusch, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a group of local volunteers dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.