

*Copy of email sent to Police Chief  
& three School District Supts*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] >

Date: Tue, May 26, 2026 at 1:42 PM

Subject: Bike path Safety

To: <[stanfields@cityofmerced.org](mailto:stanfields@cityofmerced.org)>

Cc: <[APETERSON@muhsd.org](mailto:APETERSON@muhsd.org)>, <[JStocking@mcsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:JStocking@mcsd.k12.ca.us)>, <[mweber@weaverusd.org](mailto:mweber@weaverusd.org)>

Police Chief, Richard Stanfield,

I imagine *enforcing* "bike path" rules and laws is almost impossible. Now with more electric bikes, scooters and skateboards, the paths (as well as the streets & sidewalks) are becoming more dangerous. Especially to the many, many walkers on the paths. During certain times during the day, there are easily more walkers than riders. Daily, many walkers are almost hit by someone riding fast on the path. All without a warning... "On your left," a toot or bell ring.

As a former Executive Director for many Instructional (and safety) programs for the Merced Union High School District (I'm long retired), there is a possible solution to the problem. "**Educate our young riders on rider etiquette and the laws.**" How? Through our schools! An actual simple task: 1. Approach each Superintendent and explain the need with a request to develop some grade-appropriate teaching units (there are many already published on the Internet that are unique and innovative). 2 Volunteer the use of the SRO's to complement teachers in planning and implementing instruction. Summer is a great time to complete the instructional units.

I remember, many, many years ago, my SRO's; Charlie Lucas & Lou Price, used to take marginal students camping every summer week (*I think they really enjoyed camping, especially while getting paid*). So, I am guessing some SRO's are available. Plus, the school districts usually have some categorical funds available for one or more teachers to be involved. The actual completed age-appropriate teaching units can be taught in many places; homerooms, P.E., (great for rainy P. E. days), a pre-unit for Driver Education, or in classes, with an SRO presenting (including In-house suspension).

I have read of many bike and electric bike accidents in other towns (especially, nearby Fresno). I also have noted that there are many towns with sophisticated programs already being utilized (just search the Internet). I would hope that one of our City leaders sees this need before it becomes a much more serious problem.

Etiquette and safety laws, once instilled with youth, usually stays through adulthood.

Joe Brucia

[REDACTED]

P.S. To reach the *adult riders*, I have suggested, and will continue to suggest a Newsletter on this topic to be sent out with the City's monthly bill. Adults are just as guilty as our youth, plus many of them buy electric-mobility devices for their kids. Perhaps the Police Department can initiate such a plan.

Attached from a 5/24/2026 Fresno BEE Article-"Bikes & Moped Prove Dangerous to Minors"

<https://www.facebook.com/FresnoSheriff/posts/please-see-this-important-safety-message-from-the-fresno-police-department/1305464988392991/>

**From:** [Serratto, Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Parsley, Jennifer](#); [Waller, Kirsten](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: A " long term" bicycle & e-cycles Safety proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2026 10:02:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [Police Chief email 3.pdf](#)

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Would you be able to include this email with July 6th agenda?

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** June 25, 2026 at 9:13:42 PM PDT  
**To:** "Serratto, Matthew" <serrattom@cityofmerced.org>, Dupont@cityofmerced.gov, "Thao, Yang Pao" <ThaoY@cityofmerced.gov>, "Harris, Michael" <HarrisM@cityofmerced.gov>, "Smith, Shane" <SmithS@cityofmerced.gov>, BoylesS@cityofmerced.gov, "Xiong, Fue" <XiongF@cityofmerced.gov>  
**Cc:** "McBride, Scott" <mcbrides@cityofmerced.org>, "Flachman, Jennifer" <FlachmanJ@cityofmerced.gov>, "Stanfield, Steven" <StanfieldS@cityofmerced.org>  
**Subject:** A " long term" bicycle & e-cycles Safety proposal

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor & City Council members:

Is it time for the City of Merced to take action on safe CYCLE riding in Merced? With the popularity of electric bikes, e-scooters and e-skateboards, one reads of many accidents. Not to mention, the times we have all seen bicycle riders going against traffic or doing a "wheelie" in the middle of a busy street. If you read the Fresno Bee, or Merced Sun-Star (same articles) you will read about the Fresno area e-cycle accidents about one every two-three weeks. The last one was about the death of a popular Fowler High School student on an e-bike.

I am sure you have participated in State level workshops on this new problem. You have probably noticed that those cities that promote bike riding have some of the best *long-term* "preventive" programs. They have *initiated* school-based *education* programs to their young riders (*there is no State required instruction in safe cycling*). If you would like to start a safe-riding *educational* program (I don't believe our City Active Transportation Plans mention any), here is a step-by-step process:

1. Team up with our local school Districts to write a bike safety curriculum. (*What kids learn at an early stage usually stays with them*).
  - a. This topic must originate within local school districts as there is no State mandated curriculum.
  - b. There are already many age-level lessons, powerpoints, videos, etc. on other city and/or school web pages (i e. Palo Alto, Marin, Davis, Eugene, Ore.etc. etc.).
  - c. Individual meetings with each Superintendent (Merced High Schools,

Merced City Schools, Weaver Schools) would start the process. It just takes an instructional person and maybe a couple of Merced Police School Resource Officers (SRO's) to do the actual research by grade level; then put into a year-by-year format. The District will decide when and where to use it (P.E., home rooms, State Requirements, rainy days, etc.)

2. Select a key City employee to initiate the process. The *Chief of Police* (or, a staff member selected by him) is the perfect City employee to start meeting with each of our three Superintendents. Our Police Department is ready and is now working hard to inform youth and parents about e-cycles. The Police Department staff have partnered (& shared costs) with the schools for many years. (I once supervised the SRO's within the Merced Union H.S. District) With this step one "awareness," it is now time to take the next step of long term "prevention."

3. Reach out to parents and other adults (i e. college students) who also need assistance. For example, knowing about the different classification of e-bikes (Merced Police has published a chart on Facebook for adults who view their site), helmet laws, age requirements, bicycle etiquette, etc.) Remember, parents do a lot of the e-cycle buying. But you cannot expect all adults to research this information. An occasional informative sheet, prepared by the Police Department and sent out with the City utility bill would reach most adults within the city. Colleges can add to their Bicycle web pages and new student handouts.

I urge you to start the process. The longer we wait, there will be more accidents. No one wants to hear about a young, popular freshman from one of our high schools dying from an e-bike accident.

I do hope this memo gives you some motivation to be proactive to a rising problem. Our town has great bike paths and many cyclists, family bike riders, and now e-cyclists are using our paths and streets.

Starting this process probably won't cost the City any money. (SRO salaries are paid totally, or, are shared by the Districts who usually have categorical District funds available for planning and instructional materials.)

*Successful leaders have Knowledge, Communication Skills and Care (about their citizens).*

Sincerely,

Joe Brucia

Retired Merced Educator

**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**



While our School Resource Officers are out for the summer, they will continue conducting bicycle and e-bike enforcement throughout the community to promote safety and educate riders on applicable laws. Enforcement efforts may include contacts for unsafe riding behaviors, equipment violations, and non-compliant motorized vehicles.

Let's work together to keep Merced's streets, bike paths, and neighborhoods safe for everyone.



Write a comment...

