



Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority.
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process.

Board or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.

Date Submitted to Staff Liaison: 4/20/2021

Board/ Commission: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Submitted by: Timothy Oey

Study Issue Working Title: Simplify Sidewalk Riding Ordinance

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

There are many times and situations when people of any age should be able to ride bicycles as well as other personal mobility devices on sidewalks for safety and comfort reasons. The current Sunnyvale sidewalk riding ordinance allows this for bicycles but in a backdoor kind of way and does not address all the other devices people may ride. Additionally, people of color often are singled out by law enforcement for minor infractions of this sort of law. Finally, relaxing and simplifying this ordinance will help make these other modes of travel more attractive than driving. Separately Sunnyvale should improve sidewalks to make them more friendly to these other modes as well as wheelchairs.

We would like to revise and simplify the current ordinance "10.56.140. Riding on sidewalks and overhead pedestrian crossings" sections a, b and c to something like "Any person may ride their electric or human powered personal mobility device (bicycle, skates, skateboard, scooter, etc) upon any sidewalk or pedestrian crossing as long as they exercise due care, do not exceed 7mph, and give pedestrians the right-of-way. Riders must use bicycle or road facilities if they exceed 7mph."

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments:



Sunnyvale

Memorandum

Brief Scope: The study will include a review of existing state laws, City Municipal Code, and adopted ordinances to identify what is currently mandated by the state law, and what kind of local ordinances can be adopted for the operations of bicycles and other personal mobility devices on the sidewalk. If changes to the municipal code or adoption of new ordinances are supported by the study, they will require City Council approval. The study will also include a review of local ordinances and municipal codes adopted by other agencies. Furthermore, the study will include collision analysis involving bicycles and other mobility devices within the last five years in Sunnyvale. Lastly, the study will include public outreach to obtain feedback from the public on the study issue.

Staff Comments: The city can only adopt local ordinances that are not already regulated or prohibited by state laws.