

Hawthorne Police Department

E-Bike Enforcement and Safety



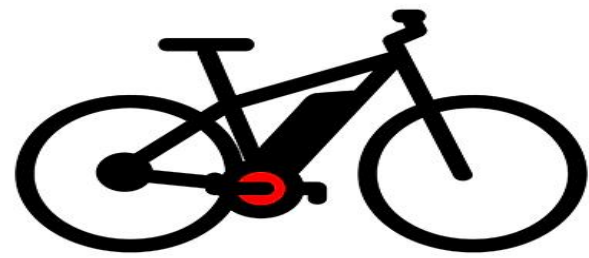
E-Bikes



In California, e-bikes are treated like regular bicycles and must follow the rules of the road.



E-Bike Classes Explained



CLASS 1

CLASS 2

CLASS 3

Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓
Throttle		✓	
Max Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

Class 1: Pedal-assist

- Pedal-assisted.
- Power maxes out at 20mph.
- Allowed wherever regular bicycles are allowed.
- No minimum age
- No driver's license required
- Helmet required for 17 and under

Class 2: Throttle-controlled

- Has pedals or throttle-assisted.
- Power maxes out at 20mph.
- Allowed wherever regular bicycles are allowed.
- No minimum age
- No driver's license required
- Helmet required for 17 and under

Class 3: Pedal-assist

- Pedal or throttle-assisted.
- Maxes out at 28mph.
- Some restrictions on where they can be ridden.
- Minimum age 16
- No driver's license required
- Helmet required for all ages



Not an E-Bike



Any e-bike that assists the rider over 28 mph is not street legal and must stay off of roads, sidewalks and multi-use trails and paths.

Any vehicle designed and meant for off-road use is not to be used for street use.



Hawthorne Police Department Response



HAWTHORNE
City of Good Neighbors

The Hawthorne Police Department Traffic Bureau is committed to improving safety for:

- Bicyclists
- Pedestrians
- Motorists

In order to promote public safety, the Hawthorne Police Department Traffic Bureau proactively promoted responsible e-bike use throughout the city.

Bicycle Safety Campaigns



The Traffic Bureau participated in multiple bicycle safety Operations in partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

The efforts were focused on both enforcement and education.

- Focused on **safety** violations such as:
 - Riding on sidewalks
 - Failing to stop at signals/signs
 - Unsafe riding in traffic

When juveniles were stopped, parents were contacted and they were educated as well.



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12201 S. HAWTHORNE BL. | HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA 92350



May is National Bicycle Safety Month

The Hawthorne Police Department is encouraging everyone to be alert to keep bicyclists safe. With the arrival of warmer weather, more people are biking for commuting, exercise or recreation, making it essential for all people to look out for one another and save lives.

According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), there were 1,105 people killed while riding a bike in 2022, and an estimated 46,195 bicyclists were injured.

Bicycling is a great means of transportation and recreation, and everyone deserves to ride to their destination safely. Whether you are behind the wheel or on two wheels, we all share the responsibility to move safely on our roads .

To help keep people biking or walking safe, the Hawthorne Police Department's Traffic Bureau will conduct multiple traffic safety operations throughout the month, focused on driver behaviors that put bicyclists and pedestrians at risk, such as speeding, making illegal turns, failure to yield right of way and stop sign/red light running.

The Hawthorne Police Department suggests the following safety tips for bicyclists and drivers:

Drivers

- Slow down and follow the speed limit. Be careful traveling through intersections.
- Look carefully for bicyclists and pedestrians before making a turn or opening a car door near streets or bike paths.
- Be patient when traveling behind a bicyclist and give them space when passing. California law requires drivers to change a lane, when possible, to pass bicyclists and always pass with at least 3 feet of space.

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

CONTACT

Hawthorne Police Traffic Bureau: 310.349.2701



You may also provide anonymous information by downloading the "P3 Tips" mobile app [Google Play or Apple Store]

- Never drive distracted or impaired.

Bike Riders

- Use lights at night.
- Although not required for riders 18 and older, always wear a properly secured helmet. Helmets significantly reduce the chance of a head injury in the event of a crash.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.
- Yield to pedestrians, just as a driver would. Pedestrians have the right-of-way within marked or unmarked crosswalks at intersections.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

E-Bike Safety



HAWTHORNE
City of Good Neighbors

- Obey traffic laws, use hand signals, use lights at night (front white light and rear red reflector), and wear a helmet.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.
- Avoid the door zone: do not ride too closely to parked cars.
- If there's a bike lane, use it, unless making a left turn, passing, or approaching a place where a right turn is allowed.
- Yield to pedestrians. Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within marked crosswalks or within unmarked crosswalks at intersections, and between intersections where pedestrians may cross.

Subsequent Operations



The Hawthorne Police Department Traffic Bureau proactively launched another round of e-bike enforcement in coordination with the start of the school year.

Focused on educating riders and improving safety for students, pedestrians, and motorists alike.

- Over **100 e-bicyclists** have been contacted and provided guidance on the rules of the road, with an emphasis on lawful riding behavior and community safety.



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12001 N. HAWTHORNE BL. | HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA 92530

Fall Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The Hawthorne Police Department traffic bureau has participated in numerous operations focused on the most dangerous behaviors that put the safety of people biking or walking at risk. These violations include speeding, making illegal turns, failing to yield or provide right of way, or failing to stop for signs and signals.

Bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians can take numerous actions reduce the risk of getting injured or in a crash:

Pedestrians

- Be predictable. Use crosswalks, when available.
- Take notice of approaching vehicles and practice due care.
- Do not walk or run into the path of a vehicle. At 30 mph, a driver needs at least 90 feet to stop.
- Be visible. Make it easy for drivers to see you – wear light colors, reflective material and carry a flashlight, particularly at dawn, dusk or at night.
- Be extra careful crossing streets or entering crosswalks at night when it is harder to see, or when crossing busier streets with more lanes and higher speed limits.

Drivers

- Do not speed, and slow down at intersections. Be prepared to stop for pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks, and between intersections where pedestrians may cross.
- Avoid blocking crosswalks while waiting to make a right-hand turn.
- Never drive impaired.

Bicyclists

- Obey traffic laws, use hand signals, use lights at night (front white light and rear red reflector), and wear a helmet.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.
- Avoid the door zone: do not ride too closely to parked cars.
- If there's a bike lane, use it, unless making a left turn, passing, or approaching a place where a right turn is allowed.
- Yield to pedestrians. Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within marked crosswalks or within unmarked crosswalks at intersections, and between intersections where pedestrians may cross.
- Bicyclist are prohibited from riding on the sidewalk in the City of Hawthorne.

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

CONTACT

Hawthorne Police Traffic Bureau: 310.349.2701



You may also provide anonymous information by downloading the "P3 Tips" mobile app [Google Play or Apple Store]

Ongoing Efforts

- Continued enforcement and education efforts.
- Online E-bike safety training courses. People who take the training will learn about the different classifications of e-bikes, what to consider when purchasing an e-bike, rules of the road and other important safety information:

