



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 15, 2021
TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager
FROM: Sheri Hartz, City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville In Support Of Assembly Bill 122 – (Boerner-Horvath), Bike Safety At Stop Signs

RECOMMENDATION

This report offers the City Council the opportunity to consider adoption of a Resolution supporting AB 122 – (Boerner-Horvath), Bike Safety At Stop Signs.

BACKGROUND

At the May 4, 2021 regular City Council meeting, Council Member Medina requested and received majority support that an item be added to an upcoming City Council meeting agenda for the City Council to consider adopting a Resolution of support for AB 122 – (Boerner-Horvath), Bike Safety At Stop Signs, and which authorizes the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the entire City Council.

DISCUSSION

AB 122, also known as the Safety Stop, would authorize a person riding a bicycle to treat a stop sign as if it were a yield sign, giving the right-of-way to other traffic at an intersection before proceeding safely through, but without the requirement to come to a full stop.

Bicycling is an important part of a sustainable transportation system, but, as it continues to grow as a method of transportation in our communities, bicyclists face traffic danger while on the road. As a result, many people choose to avoid the direct routes to their destinations, opting instead to travel on side streets with less traffic, where they face frequent stop signs often placed deliberately to deter through automobile traffic. Having to stop and restart repeatedly can be a deterrent to bicycling and research has found that it reduces the distance that people are willing to ride.

Oregon and Washington have already reformed their laws implementing Safety Stops. Idaho, Delaware, Arkansas, and Colorado have all passed versions of this law. Delaware, the state where the law has been in effect the longest after Idaho, saw a 23 percent reduction in crashes at stop sign controlled intersections. North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia are all considering similar legislation this year.

An additional consideration is that cyclists of color are often faced with being detained and cited by law enforcement for bicycle infractions as they are disproportionately stopped and cited for vehicle code infractions, including when riding a bike. AB 122 will improve equity among California residents by providing clarity to the law while also decreasing potentially lethal interactions with law enforcement.

The Safety Stop does not change the normal rules of yielding at an intersection. People on bikes will still be required to yield to pedestrians and to other traffic in the intersection or approaching the intersection with the right-of-way. It simply legalizes common practice, which is to slow down as they approach an intersection, check for traffic, proceed if it is safe, and stop if it is not.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no direct fiscal impacts to the City from the adoption of this Resolution.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

This item was requested by Council Member Medina at the May 4, 2021 meeting

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Not applicable

CONCLUSION

Whether to adopt the Resolution is at the Council's discretion.

PREPARED BY: Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Resolution
- AB 122 Full Text
- Draft Letter of Support