

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Prime Sponsors:

Virginia Maloney

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to lowering the speed limit for bicycles with electric assist

Submitted by:

Council Member Virginia Maloney

Justification:

Electric-assist bicycles have become an increasingly common mode of transportation across New York City, offering convenience and efficiency for commuters and delivery workers alike. However, their growing speed capabilities often exceeding those of traditional bicycles have introduced new safety risks for pedestrians, cyclists, and riders themselves, particularly in dense, high-traffic areas.

Current regulations do not adequately account for the unique risks posed by faster electric-assist bicycles operating in shared spaces such as bike lanes and streets with heavy pedestrian activity. Lowering the permissible speed limit for these devices is a targeted, commonsense measure to reduce the severity and likelihood of collisions, improve predictability in bike lane traffic, and enhance overall street safety.