

11-0445

TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

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High gas prices and environmental concerns are making European cargo bikes and front mounted child bicycle seats more popular in America. Cargo bikes allow bicyclists to put items or children in a box, basket or platform mounted over one or both front wheels. The size of the payload is limited only by the strength of the riders; some European cargo bikes that can carry as many as four kids. Front mounted child bicycle seats have clear safety advantages, including better control of the bike when loading and unloading a child and clear visibility to see what a child is doing at all times. Several individuals in the United States are modifying popular European cargo bike designs and front mounted child bicycle seats to suit American riders.

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 80.27, however, requires that any seat other than the regular seat for the bicyclists, must be attached to the rear. Examples are the typical bicycle child seat or trailer that are positioned in the back of a bicycle. This long-standing LAMC Section is in direct conflict with the California Vehicle Code (CVC), which was recently updated and allows for the use of European style cargo bikes and front mounted child bicycle seat. In order to be consistent with State law and support safe and innovative bicycle designs, the City should rescind LAMC Section 80.27. This would allow the CVC regulations to guide the legal use of European cargo bikes and front mounted child bicycle seats.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to repeal Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.27 relative to restricting child bicycle seats to the rear of the operator that would remove the current inconsistency with the newly revised California Vehicle Code Section 21204 to allow for the use of European style cargo bikes and front mounted child bicycle seats.

PRESENTED BY: Ed P. Reyes
ED P. REYES
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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