



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
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April 2, 2014

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The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 2173 (Bradford) — Support and Seek Amendment

Dear Chair Lowenthal,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission respectfully urges you to support AB 2173, and to pursue an amendment to clarify that local jurisdictions that exclude low-speed electric bicycles from Class I paths post signs at trail access points so that riders of electric bicycles are made aware of the policy and not subject to fines without appropriate notice.

AB 2173 would grant riders of electric-assist and other electric bicycles access to a network of bike paths they are currently prohibited from using unless a local jurisdiction adopts an ordinance explicitly allowing them. A number of jurisdictions have allowed electric bicycles on paths for many years, including Petaluma, Sebastopol, UC Berkeley and UC Davis. The definition proposed in AB 2173 is consistent with the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission classification (16 C.F.R. 1512.1, et seq.). While this definition is considered somewhat outdated, it is a reasonable basis for broadening access, while maintaining restrictions against use of Class I paths by higher-speed electric bikes which could cause significant injury to other users. MTC looks forward to working with the author and your staff on the bill as it moves through the legislative process.

If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please contact Scott Wetch or Justin Fanslau at 916-446-3413 or Duncan McFetridge at (916) 444-1380.

Sincerely,

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
The Honorable Steven Bradford
Mr. Dave Snyder, Executive Director, California Bicycle Coalition
Mr. Kevin Mathy, Transportation Manager, Google, Inc.

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