



Downtown Community Policing Team

Innovative Policing: E-Bike Proposal

Prepared by Ofc. Marscher

Innovative Policing: E-Bikes

- Extended patrol range with less officer fatigue
- Ability to keep pace with the increasing number of e-bikes which are being utilized by the public
- Improved response time in congested or pedestrian areas
- Quiet and eco-friendly, ideal for community policing
- Positive public perception and approachability
- Sustainability – reduced carbon footprint, energy efficiency, promotes general shift towards eco-friendly transportation
- Cost-effective compared to patrol vehicles
- Overwhelming positive feedback from community members

E-Bike General Info

- E-bikes are becoming an increasingly popular mode of transportation with the general public and within the downtown Clearwater community.
- E-bikes are permitted to ride in the same areas where traditional bicycles are permitted.
- Educational enforcement details are conducted by law enforcement to increase awareness and educate riders.
 - Detail conducted on May 28, 2025, resulted in a total of 54 stops/contacts with the vast majority being issued warnings and/or provided with educational material.
 - Enforcement details are to be conducted in the near future.
 - PD E-bike will allow for demonstrations to public/riders.

CPD E-Bike Crime Stats/Info

- Large amount of traffic/bike stops conducted on e-bikes.
- E-Bikes have been involved in several fleeing to elude cases.
- Multiple traffic crash and traffic homicide investigations have been conducted in which e-bikes were involved.

Community Comments

- “E-bikes are dangerous on Cleveland, especially in the closed 400/500 blocks. Chiang Mai is among the last of the businesses on the S side of Cleveland. With the street blocked, this has especially invited bikes, skateboard, touch football on the "closed" side of the street. Parents dine on 1 side while kids play in the other.

I don't mention the "playground" kids as a negative itself. But rather, those increasing numbers of kids' susceptibility to e-bikers riding while texting/speeding.”

- Soney (Chiang Mai Thai/Sushi – 415 Cleveland St)

Community Comments

- “The E-Bikes are extremely dangerous on Cleveland Street. I have seen many cars stopping short to avoid hitting the people on them. Obviously not the driver's fault, but the people who ride them down Cleveland Street travel insanely fast on the sidewalks. I personally have been walking on the new sidewalks near our business, and I sometimes jump out of the way for fearing of being hit by one. Regular biking probably would be fine, but the E-Bikes are not ideal for pedestrian safety.”

Regards,

Rita Gianfilippo (P.J.'s Auto World – 1370 Cleveland St)

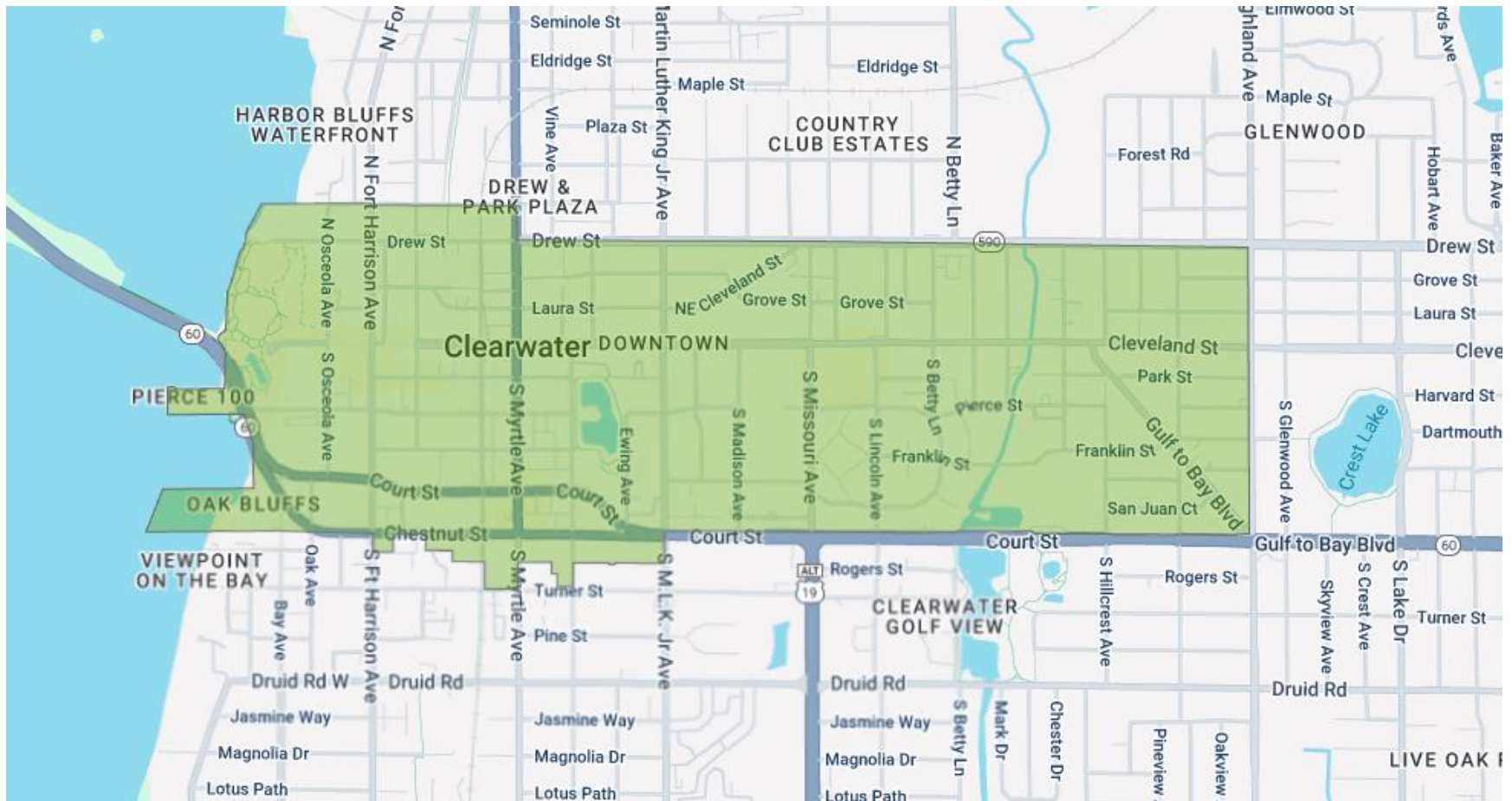
- “Our main concern is that the e-bikes fly downhill either direction and usually do not stop at the intersection of Cleveland and Gulf to Bay.”

Staff at Senor Subs and Gyros (1364 Cleveland St)

Accessibility & Engagement

- E-bikes will allow officers to conduct more effective and prolonged engagement within the CRA.
- Increased accessibility to the 400 and 500 blocks of Cleveland St. where vehicular access is not available.

Deployment Area



E-Bikes in Law Enforcement

- Local law enforcement agencies (Pinellas Park PD & HCSO) as well as multiple agencies statewide are utilizing e-bikes as part of their patrol-based deployment options.
- Additionally, numerous agencies (PCSO, Largo PD, Treasure Island PD, etc.) are currently testing e-bikes to determine the best options/viability for their specific department needs.
- Positive feedback from the community regarding the deployment of e-bikes includes increased officer visibility and approachability. Unanimous support received from members at the most recent East Gateway meeting.

E-Bikes in Law Enforcement



Volcanic APB 29er

- Price: \$4,499
- Motor: Bosch Performance Line Sport, 75 Nm torque
- Battery: Bosch Powerpack 500Wh
- Range: Up to 80 miles
- Weight: <53 lbs
- Durability: High
- Max Speed: 28 mph
- Charging: Charges to 50% in 1.2 hrs, full in 3 hrs (Bosch)
- Pros: Law enforcement design, lightweight, customizable, lifetime frame warranty
- Link:
<https://volcanicbikes.com/product/aproach-patrol-bike-apb-29er-ebike/>



Warranty Info

- The Volcanic 29er e-bike comes with a lifetime frame warranty in addition to a twelve (12) month component manufacturer warranty.

Sustainability

- Maintenance provided/completed by local e-bike stores/vendors.
- In-house training for employees who will be utilizing the bikes.
- Routine inspections of the bikes will be completed by employees before and after deployments.
- Life expectancy: approximately 3-10 years under normal use
 - Battery life: 3-5 years or 500-1000 charging cycles

Total Estimated Budget

Total Estimated Budget \$15,000

- E-Bike
- Helmets
- Certification/Maintenance Trainings