
Know the Rules, Ride Safe Class

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To Paul Akinjo <pakinjo@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

Good afternoon Mayor,

On Saturday, May 16, our Traffic Unit hosted the first “Know the Rules, Ride Safe” youth bike and E-ride safety class at the Lathrop Police Department.

A total of 11 youth registered for the class, including:

- 5 Bicycles
- 2 E-bikes
- 4 E-scooters

However, only seven youth participants between the ages of 10–16 attended the event, accompanied by seven parents/guardians.

They used:

- 3 Bicycles
- 1 E-bike
- 2 E-scooters

For the youth attendees who either brought a device they were not legally eligible to operate or who were unable to bring a device, the Lathrop Police Department provided an alternative bicycle or scooter to allow all participants the opportunity to safely participate in the practical exercises.

Additionally, three families voluntarily utilized the Lathrop Police Department Bicycle Registration Program during the event.

The class included an educational video presentation followed by a group discussion involving both youth and parents. Participants then completed hands-on riding scenarios designed to reinforce traffic safety laws and safe riding behaviors. Scenario-based training included:

- Riding against traffic
- Stop sign operation
- Safely entering the roadway

Traffic Officers discussed several key safety topics with participants, including:

- Riding with the flow of traffic
- Why wrong-way riders are more difficult for drivers to see
- Proper stop sign and red-light operation
- Stopping behind limit lines and crosswalks
- Looking left, right, and left again before entering a roadway

- Why drivers may not anticipate fast-moving riders entering crosswalks
- Traffic laws applicable to bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters

Initial registration numbers were low. In addition, the Traffic Unit conducted proactive educational enforcement and outreach related to observed juvenile bicycle and e-ride violations within the community. For those violations, the parents and guardians were provided information regarding the optional class (May 16) as an educational diversion opportunity focused on improving rider awareness, rule compliance, and overall traffic safety. To my knowledge, all cited youth offenders attended the class with a parent or guardian and successfully completed the program, resulting in dismissal of the citation.

Overall, the event was successful and provided valuable community engagement, educational outreach, and operational insight for future youth traffic safety programming.

Photos from the event will be on the shared on Social Media this week.

Chief Sealy