Sponsored by: Mayor O'Neall
Date: October 12, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 5239

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATEWIDE REGULATION OF ELECTRIC-ASSISTED BICYCLES AND REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPT THIS ISSUE AS A STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

WHEREAS, electric-assisted bicycles and similar devices are increasingly common across Alaska's communities, leading to confusion among riders, pedestrians, law enforcement, and municipalities regarding what is legal and where these devices may be safely operated; and

WHEREAS, the lack of clear statewide standards places both riders and local governments in a difficult position, forcing communities to develop piecemeal regulations that may inadvertently create barriers for responsible riders or lead to inconsistent enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a prior effort to establish statewide definitions and operating rules for electric-assisted bicycles was vetoed, leaving Alaska without the clarity that residents, municipalities, and enforcement agencies continue to request; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks community has expressed a range of concerns, including:

- confusion about whether certain devices are legal on sidewalks, pathways, and roadways;
- frustration with inconsistent rules between cities, the borough, and the state;
- a desire for clear definitions that distinguish low-speed e-bikes used for commuting from high-powered devices capable of motorcycle-level speeds;
- concerns for pedestrian safety on shared paths; and
- the belief that Alaskans should be able to enjoy e-bikes freely and responsibly—without fear of unintentionally violating unclear or inconsistent laws; and

WHEREAS, many community members have voiced support for statewide standards precisely because they reduce unnecessary government overreach at the local level, ensuring consistency and protecting personal freedom while still allowing cities to address unique local needs when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, a statewide framework would provide Alaskans the freedom to ride responsibly without navigating a patchwork of local ordinances, while also supporting public safety and reducing conflict on shared public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League serves as the unified voice for Alaska's municipalities, and clear statewide regulation of electric-assisted bicycles aligns with AML's mission to promote effective, limited, and consistent governance across Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS as follows:

Section 1. The City Council urges the Alaska State Legislature to adopt reasonable, statewide regulations for electric-assisted bicycles, including clear definitions and operating rules, to ensure consistency, fairness, and safety for all Alaskans.

Section 2. The City Council requests the Alaska Municipal League include statewide e-bike regulation as a 2027 Legislative Priority, as a matter of clarity, public safety, and respect for personal responsibility and freedom across Alaska.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to send this executed resolution to Governor Dunleavy, members of the Interior Delegation, and the Alaska Municipal League.

Section 4. The effective date of this resolution is six days after adoption.

Mindy O'Neall, Mayor

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Therrien, Tidwell
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Sprinkle
APPROVED: October 12, 2026

ATTEST:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney