

**Sunriver Owners Association (SROA) – Pathway Safety – Task Force Creation  
Board of Directors Work Session and Business Meeting December 20 and 21, 2024  
James Lewis, General Manager**

Over the past five years, since SROA adopted a rule allowing Type 1 electric bicycles – but not allowing any other type of electric bicycle – there has been increasing owner sentiment that the 34 miles of paved pathway in Sunriver have become increasingly dangerous. Although the increased use of all types of electric bicycles have been cited as a primary reason, other issues such as the use of electric scooters, off-leash dogs, the lack of audible warnings between bicyclist and pedestrians, an overall increase in the volume of users, and a perceived lack of enforcement, have also been cited. Owners have submitted letters to the Board of Directors and have also spoken at Board meetings in this regard. As a result, the Board of Directors asked that a Pathway Safety Task Force be created to assess the aforementioned issues and provide a report and recommendations for actions to address the findings as appropriate. The overall goal is to provide a logical and specific means to account for any safety concerns that are deemed valid by the task force.

An important part of this determinative process will be the input of stakeholders – including owners (permanent residents, part-time residents and rental property owners), Sunriver Service District representatives (Sunriver Police and Fire Departments), community partners (Village, Resort, Nature Center, bike-shop/rental owners, etc. representatives), property management/rental management representatives, SROA Board of Directors liaisons and SROA Staff representatives. Ultimately, the following membership is requested:

- Owners (full-time residents, part-time residents, rental property owners)
- SRPD
- SRFD
- Village rep.
- Resort rep.
- Nature Center rep.
- Bike Rental Shop rep.
- Property Management rep.
- SROA Board
- SROA Staff

The final product of the Task Force will be a written report of findings and recommended actions to be presented to the SROA Board that includes:

- An assessment of users – types of use (pedestrians, bicyclists, other)
- A statistical analysis of the physical condition of pathways
- Identified necessary improvements to the existing pathway system (per the SROA Pathway Master Plan)
- SRPD (bike patrol) use statistics, including bike crashes, injury, calls for service, enforcement/citations
- Limitations/potential for physical improvements
- Limitations/potential for enforcement
- Analysis of State and local laws that affect pathway use
- Recommended physical improvements
- Recommended rule changes/new rules

- Prioritization – including costs and timing

Pursuant to the SROA By-laws, the creation of a Task Force or Workgroup is permitted, and can be created by the SROA Board pursuant to a five-point directive adopted by the Board

**Suggested Five Point Directive per SROA By-laws and Committee Policy.**

1. Scope of work with anticipated completion date

- Creation of the Task Force with specific members appointed
- Elements of the Task Force Assignment
  - Review existing SROA documents (Pathway Master Plan, Parks Facilities Master Plan, SROA 2030 Strategic Plan, SROA Rules and Regulations)
  - Review State and local laws regarding bicycle operations
  - Review SRPD/Bike Patrol statistics for past 5 years as available
  - Create findings on current use and regulatory issues
  - Provide recommendations that include physical improvements and regulatory requirements as applicable
  - Address priorities and costs
- Update the SROA Board on a regular basis
- Timeline – four to six-months during winter/spring 2025
- Report to SROA Board in Spring/Summer 2025

2. Background information

The SROA pathway system consists of 34 miles of paved pathway that serves as both a transportation and recreation amenity to the community. Much of the use occurs during the spring, summer and fall when a large number of visitors recreate in the community. Through the past four owner surveys, the pathway system was recognized as the most popular and important amenity to the community – for both owners and visitors alike. Changing factors, such as the increased popularity of electric bikes, have influenced the overall use of the pathway system. The increased speeds of electric bikes, as well as other electric vehicles such as scooters and one-wheelers, have been perceived as a conflict with pedestrians using the shared pathway system.

3. Coordination requirements, accomplishing the assigned task and reporting findings

SROA staff will take the lead on organizing the Task Force, including the scheduling of meetings, keeping notes, developing draft documents and distributing information among Task Force members. It is not anticipated to be necessary, but if a consultant is determined necessary/useful for a component of the process, SROA staff will work with the consultant to determine the best course for specific and essential elements of the final report and recommendation. SROA staff, with the assistance of the Task Force members, will assemble the final report, which will be presented to the SROA Board for final approval.

4. Available support

Support to the Task Force will consist of SROA staff, as well as volunteer support from the expertise of the Task Force members themselves.

5. Other pertinent information (composition of the TF)

The Task Force will be composed of the following:

- Owners (full-time residents, part-time residents, rental property owners) - 6
- SRPD – 1

- SRFD - 1
- Village rep. - 1
- Resort rep. - 1
- Nature Center rep. - 1
- Bike Rental Shop rep. – 1 or 2
- Property Management rep. - 2
- SROA Board – 2 or 3
- SROA Staff – 2 or 3

Request - The request is for the SROA Board to authorize the creation of the SROA Pathway Safety Task Force comprised of selected multiple owner representatives, Board liaisons, community stakeholders/partners, and SROA staff, from the categories listed above, subject to the elements provided by the 5-point directive. Following the Board authorization of the task force, SROA staff will solicit for members from the groups listed above. It must be noted that for proper and timely administration of the project, a manageable number of task force participants must be maintained.

Ultimately, the final Pathway Safety Report is intended to provide a unified direction and purpose for addressing and planning for short and long-term pathway use that is safe and efficient for multiple transportation modes. This may include recommendations for physical improvements, rule changes, and capital improvements. Through proper planning and effective operational strategies, the recommendations to the SROA Board for consideration will guide the associations' investment and maintenance of its pathways for the foreseeable future.

A final list of the task force members will be presented to the Board at the January meeting. Staff requests that the Board authorize the addition of new Task Force members as necessary for various types of input and expertise if needed during the project.