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Issue 34



*An example of an electric bicycle.
Source: People for Bikes*

E-Bikes Overview

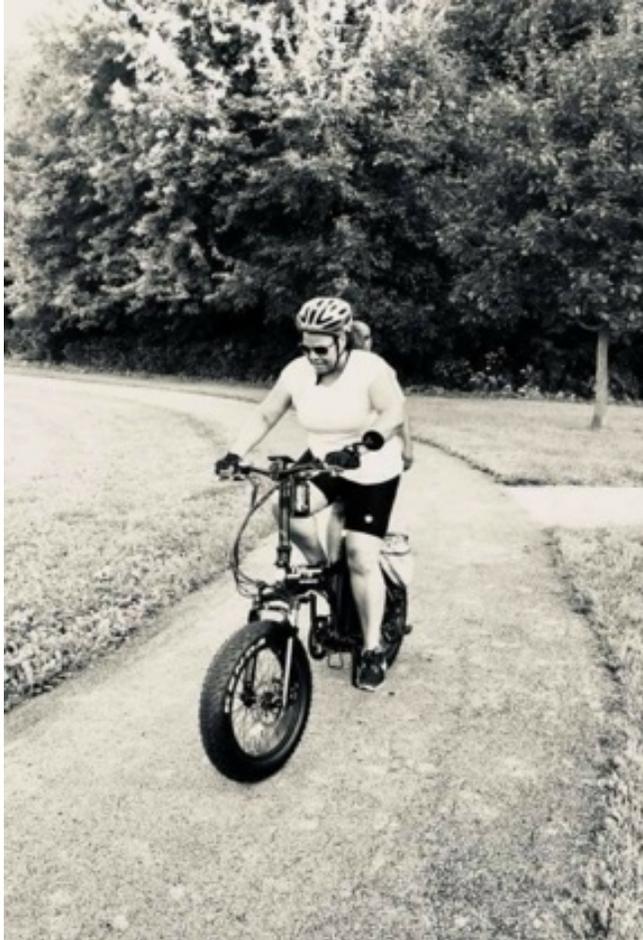
Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, are growing in popularity throughout the country as an option for active transportation. E-bikes attract bicyclists of all ages and abilities. They expand bicycling as a viable form of transportation for people who are unable to use conventional bicycles. By assisting riders on hills and other obstacles, e-bikes help conserve energy and extend bicyclists' range.

AT Announcements

Safe Routes to School Funding Application Open

ODOT is now accepting funding applications to implement infrastructure and non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School safety projects. Communities with an ODOT-approved School Travel Plan (STP) or Active Transportation (AT) plan are eligible to apply.

Application guidance, a webinar, FAQs and the application are



online. The application deadline is 5 PM, Monday, March 4.

Transportation Alternatives Funding Letters of Interest

ODOT is now accepting Letters of Interest for projects by local governments outside the county boundaries of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with four exceptions (Allen, Belmont, Licking and Washington).

Interested communities need to submit a Letter of Interest form online by Friday, February 1.

For details, see the [2019 TAP Application Guidance](#).

Ohio's New E-bike Law — Aims to Expand Use

Despite their benefits, e-bikes in Ohio were previously classified similarly to motor vehicles, preventing them from being used on bicycle facilities that prohibit motorized users, like shared-use paths. This limited their widespread adoption and created confusion for local authorities.

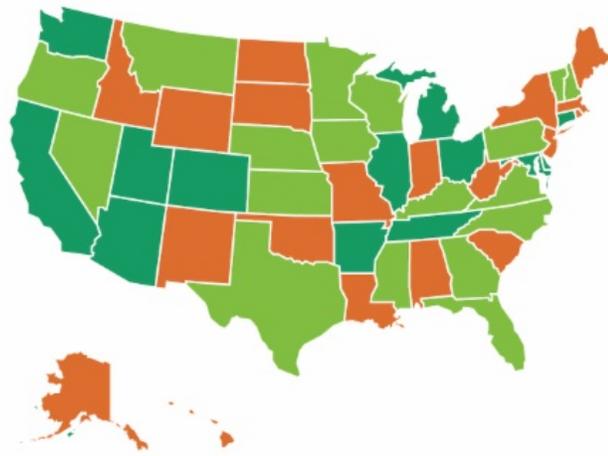
In December 2018, former Governor Kasich signed House Bill 250 into law. E-bikes are now regulated like non-electric bicycles rather than like vehicles. The law modifies several elements of Title 45 of the Ohio Revised Code and goes into effect in March.

With the new law, road users, local decision makers and planners around the state will have greater clarity on e-bike regulations and can plan for e-bikes as an active transportation option.

Ohio joins only 10 other states across the country that have enacted model e-bike legislation.

E-BIKE REGULATIONS

MODEL LEGISLATION	- PFB and BPSA have enacted our model law, which defines and regulates three classes of e-bikes.
ACCEPTABLE	- Regulated as a bicycle - Passengers allowed - No age minimum - No licensing or registration required - Can use existing bike infrastructure
PROBLEMATIC	- Regulated as a moped or motor vehicle - Confusing equipment + use requirements - Confusing licensing + registration requirements - Confusing access to bike infrastructure



Source: *People for Bikes*

E-bikes Now Allowed on Trails and Roads

The new law also defines where different e-bike classes may be used. All classes can operate on any road except for a freeway. E-bikes cannot be used on natural surface trails intended for mountain biking, hiking or equestrian use. Additionally under the law, local jurisdictions can further restrict or permit the e-bikes on any trails under their authority.



Keep in mind that e-bike users are required to follow all traffic and equipment laws that apply to bicycles, like using lights and reflectors.

Classes of E-bikes

E-bikes come in many shapes and sizes with varying capabilities. They can assist riders in two different ways:

- **Pedal Assist:** the electric motor functions only when the rider is pedaling.
- **Throttle Assist:** the motor can function even when the rider is not pedaling.

Ohio's new law defines three different classes of e-bikes according to the type of electric assistance and top speed. All classes of e-bikes are limited to an electric motor of 750 watts or less.

OHIO ELECTRIC BICYCLE CLASSES



CLASS 1

- Pedal Assist
- Up to 20 mph
- Permitted on bicycle-only and shared use paths



CLASS 2

- Throttle Assist
- Up to 20 mph
- Permitted on bicycle-only and shared use paths



CLASS 3

- Pedal Assist
- Up to 28 mph
- 16 or older
- Helmet required
- Speedometer required
- Prohibited from bicycle-only and shared use paths unless within/adjacent to a roadway

Icon Source: High Country E-Bikes

E-bikes in Action

With the law's passage, Ohio can expect to see more electric bicycles in use around the state. E-bikes are already making an appearance in Ohio bike share programs, like Cincinnati's Red Bike, which will add 10 e-bikes to its system in a pilot program in early 2019.

Check Out These Resources to Learn More

- [*Read the full text of House Bill 250*](#)

Questions? Feedback?

Drop us a line, [*bikeohio@dot.ohio.gov*](mailto:bikeohio@dot.ohio.gov)

THE NUMBERS ARE IN*



22 BICYCLIST DEATHS IN 2018

↑ 69% SINCE 2010



131 PEDESTRIAN DEATHS IN 2018

↑ 41% SINCE 2010

OUR GOAL FOR 2019 – ZERO DEATHS

***PRELIMINARY**

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TRANSPORTATION