

E-bikes are Electrifying the Future!

What Future Riders Should Know...



BUT, are you experienced enough to manage the increased speeds and maneuverability of a heavy E-bike?

Future Riders are advised to do their own research and assess their cycling capabilities before purchasing one. Below are some considerations to help make informed decisions.

- 1. Heavy E-bikes traveling at high speeds are harder to maneuver and take longer to stop.**
The average speed of a standard bicyclist is 12 mph. Type 1 & 2 ebikes can travel up to 20 mph (Type 3- 28 mph). This is a significant difference when considering the experience level of E-bike riders.
- 2. E-bike riders (and all cyclists) must follow the same rules as vehicles when riding on roadways.**

[ORS 814.400\(1\)](#)

E-bikes are rapidly increasing in popularity. E-bikes allow people of all ages to travel further and faster, allowing steep hills to be easily climbed. E-bikes give many a much more accessible option to bike instead of drive.

One less vehicle on the road benefits all.

Is the future rider experienced with the following?

- Taking turns with vehicles at intersections after coming to a complete stop
- Riding predictably WITH the flow of traffic and does not weave in and out of vehicles
- Riding outside of the door zone of parked vehicles (at least 3 feet away)
- Using hand signals for turning right, left and stopping, and scans before merging onto roads and changing lanes
- Obeying posted speeds on pathways and giving pedestrians the right of way
- Knowing how to stop abruptly and dodge obstacles without swerving into vehicle lanes
- Committed to wearing a helmet and ensuring their passenger does as well

Riding confidently on roads and pathways takes practice

Caregivers, or another experienced adult cyclist, are advised to ride with younger riders to ensure they are following the rules of the road and can handle the bicycle in various road conditions. With E-bikes, this includes extra practice – riding responsibly and under control at all times, including switching between gears and speed settings.

Types of E-bikes

According to ORS 801.258, a legal e-bikes means:

A **bicycle** (i.e. equipped with pedals) that is equipped with an electric motor and that is a Class 1, Class 2, or a Class 3 electric assisted bicycle.

BUYER BEWARE: Many brands sold in Oregon as Class 2 and Class 3 are e-motorcycles or mopeds, not legal e-bikes. These can easily be switched to speeds exceeding 20 mph on throttle power alone, making them illegal to ride on many roads and in bike lanes. Check the manufacturer's website for specifications that abide by Oregon law ORS 801.258.

→ **CLASS 1: Pedal-assist; no throttle travels up to 20 mph.** Provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20.

→ **CLASS 2: Throttle e-bikes, no pedaling required up to 20 mph.** However, many brands labeled Class 2 do not abide by Or law; they can exceed 20 mph on throttle power alone in an "unlimited" or "out of class" mode. These e-motorcycles are not legal on public roads or pathways, even with a Class 2 sticker.

→ **CLASS 3: 28 mph max; power assist; no throttle.** Ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour. Must be equipped with a speedometer.

Age Restrictions

- **According to ORS 807.020**
A person must be 16 years of age or older to operate an electric assisted bicycle.



Additional Resources

[Learn more about e-bike safety take the Online course](#)



For questions and further support, please contact info@commuteoptions.org