



# Michigan's Electric Bike FACT SHEET

## Q – What is an electric bicycle

**A** – “E-bicycle” means a device upon which an individual may ride and that is equipped with all of the following:

- A seat or saddle for use by the rider.
- Fully operable pedals for human propulsion.
- An electric motor of not greater than 750 watts, or 1 horsepower.

## Q – Can anyone ride e-bicycles?

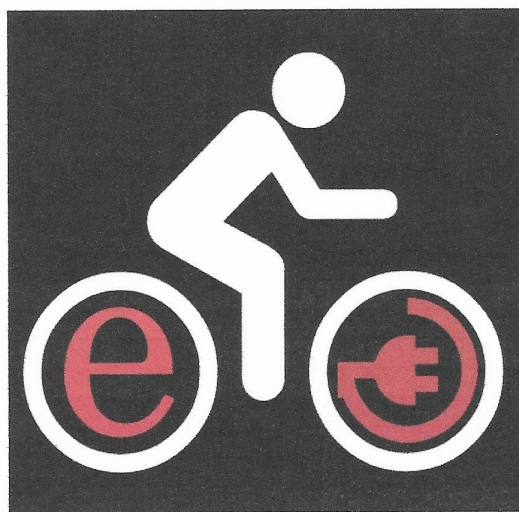
**A** – Anyone can ride a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bicycle, subject to the provisions of the law. However, a Class 3 e-bicycle shall not be operated by an individual less than 14 years of age.

## Q – Can I ride e-bicycles on city, county and state roads?

**A** – Yes, you can ride e-bicycles on any roads where a non-electric bicycle can be ridden including designated bicycle lanes.

## The Law

On October 30, 2017, the legislature passed Public Acts 138, 139 and 140, which authorizes the use of “e-bicycles” in Michigan, subject to the limitations, effect January 28, 2018.



Class 1 e-bikes travel less than 20 mph. Under legislation, Class 1 e-bikes are allowed on linear trails and rail trails. Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes are allowed on roads but not trails.

## Electric Bikes on Michigan Trails

Whether you can ride an e-bicycle on a trail depends on several factors — the class of the e-bicycle, the type of trail, and whether the authority that has jurisdiction over the trail permits the use of e-bicycles. The law defines two types of trails:

**Natural surface trails** are trails designated as non-motorized and have a natural surface that is made by clearing and grading the native soil with no added surfacing materials such as asphalt, crushed lime stone, or similar material. No e-bicycles are permitted on these trails unless the authority having jurisdiction over the trail has authorized e-bicycles i.e., “opted in.”

**Linear trails and rail trails** are trails with an asphalt, crushed limestone, or similar surface. Class 1 electric bicycles may be operated on these trails. Authorities having jurisdictions over these trails can “opt out,” or, prohibit, Class 1 electric bicycles on these trails. Examples of “linear trails” include the Polly Ann State Rail Trail, Musketawa Trail, Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park, North Central State Trail, Haywire State Grade, Iron Ore Heritage Trail and the William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail State Park. Class 2 and 3 electric bicycles are not permitted on any trails in Michigan unless the authority having jurisdiction over the trail “opts in” i.e. permits them on the trail.

## The Bikes

### CLASS 1

An e-bicycle equipped with an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and disengages or ceases to function when the e-bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

### CLASS 2

An e-bicycle equipped with a motor that propels the electric bicycle to a speed of no more than 20 miles per hour, whether the rider is pedaling or not, and disengages or ceases to function when the brakes are applied or the throttle is released.

### CLASS 3

An e-bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and disengages or ceases to function when the e-bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.