

# MINNESOTA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



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- » Electric bicycles are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both electric bicycles and human-powered bicycles.
- » Electric bicycles are not subject to the registration, licensing, or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » Minnesota designates three classes of electric bicycles:
  - » Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.
  - » Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.

- » Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 28 mph.
- » All classes of electric bicycles may ride on a bicycle path, bicycle trail, or shared use path where bicycles are permitted.
- » No person under fifteen years of age shall operate an electric bicycle.
- » Local governments have the authority to restrict the use of Class 3 electric bicycles on a bicycle path, bicycle trail, or shared use path. When in doubt, check with your town, city, or county for local rules and regulations.

\* The following Minnesota laws are referenced: Minn. Stat. §§ 169.011(15), 169.222(6).

## eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, county and local trails, e-mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.
- » Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.
- » eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.
- » Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.
- » When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

## CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at [peopleforbikes.org/emtb](http://peopleforbikes.org/emtb)
- » eMTB "Adventures" at [peopleforbikes.org/e-bikes](http://peopleforbikes.org/e-bikes)

## MINNESOTA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources allow Class 1 and 2 electric bicycles wherever traditional bicycles are allowed. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: The majority of public lands managed for recreation in Minnesota are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Regional Office for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN MINNESOTA

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|---|--|
| » <b>Cuyuna Lakes Big Tour</b><br>Crosby   20.8 miles     | » <b>CJ Ramstead Trail</b><br>Totte   42.3 miles |
| » <b>Minnesota River Bottoms</b><br>St. Paul   11.9 miles | » <b>Big Aspen Trails</b><br>Virginia   21 miles |



## Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes](http://PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes)

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| » Blogs and webinars                       | » Buying guide              |
| » Electric bicycle laws around the country | » Retailer materials        |
| » Electric bicycle statistics and research | » eMTB management resources |

## With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state's law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.