

# **Bothell Police Dept.**

## **E-Bike & E-Motorcycle**



## **Informational Pamphlet**



## **E-BIKE SAFETY**

E-bikes (electric bicycles) have become a popular way to get around the city, especially for younger residents. If you're considering purchasing or using e-bikes, please familiarize yourself with local laws to understand the difference between e-bikes and electric motorcycles (e-motorcycles). This knowledge helps promote safety on City of Bothell roads, sidewalks and trails.

## **PARENTAL SUPPORT**

E-bikes are very popular with youth in Bothell. It's critical for parents to teach children how to safely operate them. Riding fast on two wheels can be fun, but can also pose serious risks, especially for young or inexperienced riders. Make sure you are familiar with your responsibilities when riding an e-bike. They are in place to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. It's important to follow the rules and ride with consideration for others. Community safety is the reason there are laws and regulations for e-bikes.



## **IS IT AN E-BIKE OR AN ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE?**

There are clear differences between regular bicycles, e-bikes, and electric motorcycles, which are outlined in Washington State law: Bicycles are powered by pedals exclusively. E-bikes are bicycles that can be assisted by an electric motor. Some e-bikes only provide electric assistance when the rider is pedaling. Others can propel the e-bike using electric power alone. Legal e-bikes always have pedals and travel at a maximum speed of 20mph (when using only electric power) or 28mph (with the rider also pedaling). An e-bike motor will never exceed 750 watts of power.

In Washington state, new e-bikes are required to have a label that includes their class, top assisted speed, and motor wattage (RCW46.37.690). The labels are often located on the top tube or near the bottom bracket on the e-bike.

E-motorcycles' sole power source is an electric motor and often doesn't have moving pedals. They have foot pegs, other brackets, or supports. Without moving pedals capable of propelling it, this type of cycle is classified as a motorcycle. Make sure you know the difference between an e-bike and an e-motorcycle. Many e-motorcycle makes and models are marketed as e-bikes and can travel much faster than a traditional e-bike.

**Any motor-driven cycle with a motor that exceeds 750 watts is classified as an electric motorcycle. All laws that apply to gas-powered motorcycles also apply to e-motorcycles.**

#### **E-MOTORCYCLES ARE DIFFERENT**

E-bikes are motor-assisted bicycles and come with moderate safety risks. Electric motorcycles are motorcycles. They are more powerful, reach high speeds, and pose significant safety risks for kids. It's also illegal to ride an electric motorcycle if you are under the age of 16 or are over 16 but don't possess a driver's license with motorcycle endorsement. E-motorcycles are also considered illegal unless they are registered – just like all other motor vehicles. An e-motorcycle cannot be ridden as soon as you get it home and out of the box. Electric motorcycles are required to be registered with the Washington State Department of Licensing, and per state law, the licensed operator must have insurance. This means for an electric motorcycle to be ridden on a road, it must have a license plate and meet the requirements of [RCW46.61.705](#). E-motorcycle operators are required to hold a driver's license with motorcycle endorsement and a helmet.



## **E-BIKE RIDER RESPONSIBILITIES**

E-bikes can be used in most places traditional bikes are allowed, but that also depends on the class of e-bike.

### **TYPES OF E-BIKES:**

**Class 1:** These e-bikes assist up to 20 mph and only provide electric assistance when the rider is pedaling. They can be ridden anywhere traditional bikes are permitted – including mixed-use trails, bike lanes, and roads – unless otherwise noted. Such notification includes anywhere signs prohibiting motorized vehicles are posted.

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**Class 2:** These e-bikes assist up to 20 mph but can propel the bike without pedaling. They can be ridden most places where traditional bikes are permitted – including mixed-use trails, bike lanes, and roads – unless otherwise noted. Such notification includes anywhere posted signs prohibit their use.



**Class 3:** These e-bikes assist up to 28 mph and have additional rules. The rider must be 16 or older. Class 3 e-bikes are also generally prohibited on sidewalks and shared-use paths.



### **RULES OF THE ROAD FOR ALL RIDERS, REGARDLESS OF TYPE OF BIKE BEING RIDDEN**

Yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks. Obey posted speed limits. Exceeding the posted speed limit is a traffic violation. Only ride e-bikes (or any bike) where allowed. Be at least 16 years old if riding a Class 3 e-bike. An e-bike that goes faster than 28 mph is NOT an e-bike. It is an electric motorcycle and different laws apply.

### **TIPS TO KEEP RIDERS AND OTHERS SAFE**

Educate yourself on road rules and use bike paths or bike lanes whenever possible. Follow all rules of the road. Wear appropriate gear, including a helmet designed for e-bike riders with chin strap secured tightly. Slow down ahead of intersections and hazards. Use lights and reflectors. Use warning devices like bells. Keep tires properly inflated. Practice safe mounting and dismounting due to the weight of e-bikes. Bothell Police strongly advise you to follow the law and wear a proper helmet that is secured with a chin strap when riding any bike, scooter, or similar wheeled transportation. E-bikes can reach high rates of speed and helmets reduce the risk of serious head injuries.

### **RULE VIOLATIONS AND BAD BEHAVIOR**

City of Bothell Police's priority is public safety. As such, it will enforce e-bikes, e-motorcycles, and traffic laws outlined here. That includes making sure e-bikes and e-motorcycles are ridden correctly, safely, and considerately.



## **REPORTING ILLEGAL OR UNSAFE BIKE BEHAVIOR**

If you witness someone operating an e-bike, an e-scooter or an e-motorcycle in an unsafe or illegal manner as it is happening, please call 911. This includes failure to follow the rules of the road, operating an e-bike, an e-scooter or an e-motorcycle in an area where it is prohibited, and reckless riding. Dangerous accidents can occur while riding an E-bike.

To report an incident that is no longer in progress, call the non-emergency line at 425-577-5656. For nonemergency questions or concerns, you can also e-mail the Bothell Police Department at [pd\\_records@bothellwa.gov](mailto:pd_records@bothellwa.gov)



## **APPLICABLE LINKS**

[RCW 46.61.710](#) Mopeds, EPAMDs, motorized foot scooters, personal delivery devices, electric assisted bicycles, class 1 electric-assisted bicycles, class 2 electric-assisted bicycles, class 3 electric assisted bicycles - General requirements and operation.

[RCW 46.20.500](#) Special endorsement - Penalties - Exceptions.

[RCW 46.37.530](#) Motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, mopeds, electric-assisted bicycles - Helmets, other equipment - Children - Rules.

[RCW 46.61.705](#) Off-road motorcycles.

## **CONTACT US**

**The Bothell Police Department Phone:** (425) 486-1254

**Emergency Phone:** 911

**Non-emergency Phone:** (425) 577-5656

The Bothell Police Department is located at 18410 101<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Bothell WA.

