

NEW YORK'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW



NEW YORK'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » 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.
- » New York 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: Solely within a city having a population of one million or more, a bicycle with electric assist having an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when such bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-five miles per hour.

*The following New York laws are referenced: N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law §§ 34-D, 102-c, 114-e, 125, 1238, 1242, 1243.

eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, country and local trails, electric 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
- » eMTB "Adventures" at peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes

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.

- » The industry-defined Class 3 electric bicycles ("bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 28 mph") are not defined or permitted to operate in New York. New York City reflects the state's rules regarding the use and definition of electric bicycles.
- » Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles:
 - Are regulated like bicycles and subject to the same rules of the road as human-powered bicycles
 - Are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
 - Have access on roads with speed limits of 30 mph or less, including bike lanes.
 - Have access on some bike paths that are connected with or adjacent to roads.
 - May carry passengers and must ride single file.
- » Cities and towns have extensive local authority, including the ability to prohibit electric bicycles or require helmets and reflective clothing.

NEW YORK'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreations & Historic Preservation classifies electric bicycles as motorized vehicles and provides eMTB access on motorized trails. eMTBs are not allowed on motorized trails.
- » FEDERAL: New York has very little federally managed public lands, but on federal lands managed for recreation, eMTBs are considered motorized and have access to motorized trails.

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN NEW YORK

» Oswego County Trail
Fulton | 27.6 miles

» Rivergate Trail
Rivergate | 30.2 miles



Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes

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