



## **Electric Assist Bikes on Free Group Rides**

**November 25, 2019**

**Background:** Electric assist bikes are bikes that have an electric motor, but require pedal force to operate. The club promotes the use of E-bikes as they offer more mobility to many and offer a solution to Seattle's hilly topography for bike commuters. More bike commuters means more demand for safe bike infrastructure, and thus helps the club's advocacy goals. Although local governments have not completely defined the rules for E-assist bikes on streets, trails, paths and sidewalks in their jurisdictions, Cascade Bicycle Club has adopted this interim policy in the meantime to educate riders of our policy regarding E-bikes on Free Group Rides.

### **Interim Policy for Free Group Rides:**

Riders with electric assist bikes are welcome on all Free Group Rides at a Moderate Pace and slower subject to the following conditions:

1. The rider agrees to follow all the customary rider courtesy and safety requirements expected of riders using standard non-assisted bikes
2. The use of an electric assist bike on streets, trails, paths and sidewalks according to specific local rules and regulations is the responsibility of the rider of the electric assist bike and not Cascade Bicycle Club or the Ride Leader of that particular ride. If the ride route uses streets, trails, paths and/or sidewalks where local authorities prohibit the use of electric assist bikes, it is the responsibility of the rider to comply with this requirement and leave the ride or depart from that portion of the ride route. The Ride Leader will have no obligation to the departing electric assist bike rider.
3. If the use of an e-assist bike is inappropriate on a specific ride due to terrain, required turning radius, bike carry requirements, bike parking limitations, or any other issue, the Ride Leader will make that decision and inform the rider that the ride is inappropriate for the rider's equipment.

Note: Electric assist bikes are not allowed on Brisk or faster FGR because the physical and technical skill training objectives of these rides is inconsistent with electric assist. Electric bikes that do not require pedal force to operate are not allowed on any FGR.