



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

### **Interim Policy Statement for Ride Leaders**

(1 May 2017)

**Background:** Electric assist bikes are bikes that have an electric motor but require pedal force to operate. They are becoming more common and riders are showing up on Free Group Rides (FGR) expecting to ride. Although local governments have not completely defined the rules for E-assist bikes on streets, trails, paths and sidewalks in their jurisdictions, the FGR program needs an interim policy for use by the Ride Leaders when a rider comes to a ride on an E-assist bike.

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

Riders with electric assist bikes are welcome on all FGR at 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. The Ride Leader will discuss this requirement with the rider before the start of the 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.

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.