



## Electric Assist Bicycles on Free Group Rides

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Background: Electric assist bicycles (e-bikes) have become more commonplace and expand the opportunity for more people to ride outdoors. The Club promotes the use of e-bikes as they offer more mobility to many, decrease dependency on automobiles and fossil fuels, and provide a solution to Seattle's hilly topography for bike commuters. More people on bikes create more demand for safe bicycle infrastructure, and this demand helps promote the Club's advocacy goals. In 2018 Washington State updated its law (the RCW) to include e-bike definitions and rules (see below). Cascade Bicycle Club has adopted this interim policy as a means to educate riders and integrate e-bikes on Free Group Rides.

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

Riders with electric assist bicycles (e-bikes) are welcome on Free Group Rides listed as Self-paced or Brisk (16-18 mph) and slower-paced, subject to the following conditions:

1. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are permitted.
2. Class 3 e-bikes are not permitted on any Free Group Ride.
3. The e-bike rider agrees to follow all the customary rider courtesy and safety requirements expected of riders using standard non-assisted bicycles.
4. The use of an e-bike on streets, trails, paths and sidewalks according to specific local rules and regulations is the responsibility of the rider of the e-bike and not Cascade Bicycle Club or the Ride Leader of that particular ride.
5. If the ride route uses streets, trails, paths and/or sidewalks where local authorities prohibit the use of e-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 e-bike rider.
6. If the use of an e-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 list in their ride description why their route is not recommended for e-bikes.

NOTE: E-bikes are not allowed on Vigorous (18-20mph) or faster-paced Free Group Rides because the speed, physical exertion required and group riding dynamic of these faster-paced

rides are inconsistent with e-bike pedal assist limits of 20 mph and slower. Class 3 e-bikes are not permitted on any Free Group Ride because a majority of rides include segments on multi-use paths and trails where these faster-capable bicycles are not permitted by local statutes.

**RCW e-bike definitions:**

"Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three wheels, a saddle, fully operative pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor. The electric-assisted bicycle's electric motor must have a power output of no more than seven hundred fifty watts. The electric-assisted bicycle must meet the requirements of one of the following three classifications:

1. "Class 1 electric-assisted bicycle" means an electric assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour;
2. "Class 2 electric-assisted bicycle" means an electric assisted bicycle in which the motor may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour; or
3. "Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle" means an electric assisted bicycle in which the motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour and is equipped with a speedometer.