



Riding E-bikes and Electric Motorcycles In Bellevue



Types of Bicycles



Traditional Bikes feature pedals, two or three wheels, and no motor.



E-Bikes are a type of bicycle with a small electric motor (max 750 watts). They have top speeds of 20 mph (Class 1 and 2) or 28 mph (Class 3). They always have working pedals and two or three wheels.



Electric Motorcycles are not a type of bicycle. They are legally a motor vehicle that must follow all motorcycle laws. Electric motorcycles require a license, insurance, DMV registration, and a DOT-certified motorcycle helmet. They are capable of speeds that exceed 28mph.

Quick Test: Is it an E-Bike or a Motorcycle?

If your device has **ALL** of these characteristics:

- Throttle limited to 20 mph or no throttle
- Pedal assist stops at 28 mph or lower
- Motor is 750 watts or less
- Has working pedals

Then it's an e-bike.

If your device has **ANY** of these characteristics:

- Throttle over 20 mph
- Pedal assist over 28 mph
- Motor is over 750 watts
- No working pedals

Then it's an electric motorcycle.



Safely riding e-bikes and electric motorcycles helps prevent serious injuries and fatalities. Visit BellevueWA.gov/visionzero to learn more about our Vision Zero Program!



BellevueWA.gov/micromobility



E-bike Classes and Other Electric-Powered Devices

Category	Where You Can Ride	Max Assisted Speed	Throttle	Minimum Age	Other
Class 1 E-bike	■ All streets, bike lanes & shared use paths ■ Unpaved trails open to standard bikes ■ Sidewalks (people walking always have the right of way)	20 mph with pedal assist	 no	none	Must have fully operable pedals
Class 2 E-bike	■ Streets & bike lanes only ■ Must be walked on sidewalks, shared use paths & trails	20 mph with pedal assist or throttle	 yes		
Class 3 E-bike	■ Streets & bike lanes only ■ Must be walked on sidewalks, shared use paths & trails	28 mph with pedal assist	 no	16+	Must have fully operable pedals and speedometer
E-Scooter	■ Streets, bike lanes, paved trails & shared-use paths ■ Sidewalks, only when no safe alternative exists; must be walked in signed dismount zones	15 mph with throttle	 yes		Standing deck or seat, with handlebar grips for contact
Electric Motorcycle	■ Street use only	Exceeds 20 mph with throttle or exceeds 28 mph with pedal assist	Varies	16+, with a valid motorcycle license	DMV license, registration, & motorcycle insurance

*Some e-bikes can switch between Class 1, 2, and 3 through their software settings. Some manufacturers label these models as “Class 2/3” or “Class 1/3” to indicate their switchable modes, while others list only the default class even if it can be changed. Bellevue’s codes apply based on how your e-bike is configured when you ride, so changing modes can affect where users can ride, age limits, and other legal requirements.



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