

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MASSACHUSETTS Safe Routes to School
MASS.GOV/SAFE-ROUTES-TO-SCHOOL

E-BIKES IN MASSACHUSETTS

RIDE SMART. BE SAFE.

Electric bikes (E-Bikes) combine pedal power with electric power. The motor propels you up hills and helps you cover longer distances. They are heavier, accelerate quicker, and move faster than pedal bikes.

	CLASS ONE	CLASS TWO	CLASS THREE	E-MOTO
Power	✓	✓	✓	10x ✓
Min Age	N/A	N/A	TBD	16+
Max Speed	20 MPH	20 MPH	28 MPH	28+ MPH
Helmet Required	16 & Under	16 & Under	16 & Under	✓
Type	Bike	Bike	Bike	Motor Vehicle
Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Throttle	N/A	✓	Varies	✓
Ride On Sidewalk	NO*	NO	NO	NO

*The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) allows Class 1 e-bikes on its trails.

SPEED
2x your speed;
4x your STOPPING DISTANCE

MASS
2x your weight;
2x your STOPPING DISTANCE

CONDITIONS
When weather & road conditions change, BIKING ABILITIES can change

BRAKING ABILITY
Age, experience, & braking force impact your STOPPING POWER

REACTION TIME
Distractions, such as phones, music, & fatigue, delay your RESPONSE TIME

Class 3 e-bikes and “e-motos” are not currently recognized categories of devices in Massachusetts. An e-moto is likely an “Off-Highway Vehicle” (OHV) and thus would require a helmet.



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E-BIKES SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

WHAT RIDERS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES CAN DO

LEARN to Ride an E-Bike

- E-Bikes handle **differently** than pedal-powered bikes—**practice** in a safe area first.
- E-Bikes are **heavier**, **faster**, and belong on **the road** with other vehicles.
- **Throttle-powered** E-Bikes can **accelerate** quickly.
- Start **slow** and stay in **control**.

FOLLOW Rules of the Road

- **Everyone** on the road: bikes, cars, trucks, and buses, **follow the same rules**.



RESPONSIBILITY

- Understand which E-Bike is **best** for your family members.
- Keep in mind, most bike shops only **service** what they **sell**.
- Parents/guardians, please ensure cyclists under the age of 18 are **supervised**.
- Ride **predictably** and **yield** to pedestrians.

REMEMBER it's the LAW[1]

- E-Bikes are for **road use only**; sidewalk riding is not permitted. Check local rules for shared use paths.
- A **permanent label** listing class, top assisted speed, and motor wattage is required for Class 1 and 2 e-bikes.
- Riders **16 years of age or younger** are required by law to wear a helmet.
- When riding at **night**, bikes must have a white front **light** and a **red** rear light.
- Bicycles operated by anyone **under 18** in **violation** of the law may be **impounded** by the police or town Select Board for up to **15 days**.

1 Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 85, § 11B ¾(b), (c), (f)–(g), and 2(iii).