



Town of New Castle
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Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council
From: David Reynolds
Re: Agenda Item: E-Bike Update
Date: 03/17/2026

Purpose:

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Town Council with an update concerning E-Bike use by youth in Town.

Based on previous Town Council meetings, below is a list of guidelines that are suggested for incorporation into the Town's Municipal Code:

- All riders 16 and younger must wear a helmet while riding all classes of E-Bikes
- No Passengers allowed on E-Bikes
- Only Class 1 peddle assist E-Bikes are allowed on Town trails. (Class 2 & 3 not permitted)
- Only Class 1 peddle assist E-Bikes are allowed on Town Multi-Use Paths. (Class 2 & 3 not permitted)
- Only Class 1 peddle assist E-Bikes are allowed on Town sidewalks. (Class 2 & 3 not permitted)
- Class 1,2,3 E-Bikes are allowed on town roads and bike lanes.
- Electric Dirt Bikes that do not have peddle assistance and do not fit the definition of an E-Bike are not allowed on Town trails, multi-use paths, sidewalks, roadways, parks, or all town property.

Definitions and Colorado E-Bike law as a reference:

Colorado E-Bike Classifications

- **Class 1:** Pedal-assist only, motor stops at 20 mph
- **Class 2:** Throttle-assist allowed, motor stops at 20 mph
- **Class 3:** Pedal-assist only, motor stops at 28 mph. Must have a speedometer. Riders under 18 must wear a helmet. All riders must follow traffic laws.

Colorado Key Regulations and Requirements

- **Age Limits:** Riders must be at least 16 years old to operate a Class 3 e-bike.
- **Helmets:** Riders and passengers under 18 must wear helmets when on a Class 3 e-bike.
- **Safety Standards:** All e-bike batteries must meet accredited safety certification standards.

- **Path Access:** Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are generally allowed on pedestrian paths or bike lanes, while Class 3 should stick to paved roads and designated lanes. Local jurisdictions may have stricter rules.
- **Trails:** E-bikes are generally considered motorized vehicles on U.S. Forest Service trails and are only allowed on designated motorized trails.
- **Power Limits:** Legal e-bikes in Colorado must have a motor that does not exceed 750 watts.

Important Distinctions

- **Class 4 E-bikes:** Vehicles with motors exceeding 750 watts or speeds over 28 mph are not considered standard e-bikes and may be treated as mopeds or motorcycles, requiring registration and insurance.
- **DUI Laws:** E-bike riders are subject to the same DUI laws as traditional bicycles.