

E-BICYCLE

North Carolina



NC-G.S. 20-4.01 (DEFINITIONS)

- **(7a) Electric Assisted Bicycle.** – A bicycle with two or three wheels that is equipped with a seat or saddle for use by the rider, fully operable pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, whose maximum speed on a level surface when powered solely by such a motor is no greater than 20 miles per hour.

* Rules of the road apply to e-bikes, same as a bicycle. Note – Operator must be 16 years of age or older.

NC-G.S. 20-4.01 (DEFINITIONS)

- **(27 i.) Motor-driven bicycle.** – A vehicle with two or three wheels, a steering handle, one or two saddle seats, pedals, and a motor that cannot propel the vehicle at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour on a level surface. This term shall not include an electric assisted bicycle as defined in subdivision (7a) of this section.

NC-G.S. 20-4.01 (DEFINITIONS)

- (27 j.) **Moped.** – A vehicle, other than a motor-driven bicycle or electric assisted bicycle, that has two or three wheels, no external shifting device, a motor that does not exceed 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement and cannot propel the vehicle at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour on a level surface. The motor may be powered by electricity, alternative fuel, motor fuel, or a combination of each.

NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW

NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- ▶ E-bikes are defined as "electric assisted bicycles," so long as the electric bicycle's motor is under 750w, has a maximum speed of 20mph, and has operable pedals. The same rules of the road apply to both electric bicycles and human-powered bicycles.
- ▶ Electric bicycles are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.

eMTB GUIDELINES

- ▶ On federal, state, county and local trails, electric mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.
- ▶ Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.
- ▶ eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.
- ▶ Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.
- ▶ When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

CHECK OUT

- ▶ A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb
- ▶ eMTB "Adventures" at peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes

With an electric bicycle, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, electric bicycles are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of electric bicycles in the U.S. Every state's law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed electric bicycles are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.

- ▶ Helmets are not required but the age minimum for electric bicycle use is 16. Electric bicycles are allowed on sidewalks if bicycles are allowed.
- ▶ State law does specifically address whether electric bicycles are allowed on bike paths. Consult your local authority or agency for information about whether electric bicycles are permitted on bike paths.

* The following North Carolina laws are referenced: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-411 (P) § 401.

NORTH CAROLINA'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- ▶ LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- ▶ STATE: According to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, Class 1, 2 and 3 electric bicycles allowed wherever bikes are allowed. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- ▶ FEDERAL: The majority of public lands managed for recreation in North Carolina are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, where eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Southern Regional Office for more information.

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN NORTH CAROLINA

- ▶ Lake Norman State Park
Statesville | 26 miles
- ▶ Lake James State Park
Nebo | 12.9 miles



Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes

- ▶ Blogs and webinars
- ▶ Electric bicycle laws around the country
- ▶ Electric bicycle statistics and research
- ▶ Buying guide
- ▶ Retailer materials
- ▶ eMTB management resources

PROPOSED E-BIKE ORDINANCE

- **Sec. 20-12. - Use of Electric Assisted Bicycle (E-Bike) on town sidewalks and multi-use paths.**
- **NC GS – 20-4.01-7a Definition- Electric Assisted Bicycle. – A bicycle with two or three wheels that is equipped with a seat or saddle for use by the rider, fully operable pedals for human propulsion, and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, whose maximum speed on a level surface when powered solely by such a motor is no greater than 20 miles per hour.**
- **(a) No person operating an electric assisted bicycle shall go or ride upon any town sidewalk or multi-use path, except to cross at a designated crosswalk or at a street intersection.**

DRIVING ON THE BEACH



PROPOSED REVISED ORDINANCE DRIVING ON BEACHES

Section 20-109. Driving on the Beach-

- It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle of any type, including but not limited to; motor vehicle, pickup truck, airplane/helicopter, beach buggy, jeep, motorcycle, bicycle, E-bicycle, any; one, two, three or four wheeled vehicles powered by any type of motor or physically propelled on the ocean beach area within the Town of Southern Shores.
- This shall not apply to Ocean Rescue, Fire, Police, USCG, Public Works or other town authorized entities such as beach survey/nourishment contractors, turtle (NEST)volunteers, Authorized Ocean/Sea mammal rescue/removal entities, authorized commercial fishing, or Extreme Emergency situation(s).

Thank You & Questions



Chief David M. Kole

Current Beach Driving Ordinance

- **Sec. 20-109. - Driving or landing aircraft on beaches.**
- **It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle or land or take off in any aircraft, except in case of emergency, within the following described beach area in the town: beginning at the northern boundary line of the town and running thence in a southerly direction along the oceanfront with the low tidewater line to the southern boundary line of the town; provided that this section shall not apply to motor vehicles operated upon any regularly established or dedicated road or driveway on private property by the owners of such property, members of their immediate family or by bona fide guests with the written permission of such owner nor shall it apply to the official operation of motor vehicles or aircraft belonging to or used by the United States Coast Guard Service; and provided that this section shall not apply to the operation of motor vehicles or automotive equipment belonging to and used and operated by commercial fishermen while such fishermen are actually engaged in the fishing or setting of nets or seines from or in the ocean; provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize, permit or allow commercial fishermen or any other person to drive across, enter upon or conduct their fishing operations on any private property other than that owned or leased by them except by permission of the owners in the above-described area.**
- (Code 1988, § 5-82; Ord. No. 82-0028, § 27, 2-2-1982)