



Connecting People and Places

Jackson Hole Community Pathways

Jointly Funded Community Pathways & Trails Program of Jackson & Teton County

E-bikes and Pathways



January 17, 2019





Connecting People and Places

Jackson Hole Community Pathways

- Joint program of the Town of Jackson and Teton County
- Responsible for planning, designing, constructing, and managing the Teton County Pathway System
- Capital budgets – by jurisdiction
- Operations budget – split 45/55
- Routine maintenance by Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Capital maintenance managed by JHCP





Pathway System

- 50 miles constructed (2018)
- 15 miles in Grand Teton National Park (total of 42 planned)
- Completed Path 22 in 2017
- Also includes:
 - Sidewalks (~20 miles)
 - On-street Bike Routes
 - Trails and Old Pass Road (primarily USFS)
 - Winter Uses
 - Nordic
 - Fat Bikes
- Next Gen Facilities





Connecting People and Places

E-bikes and Pathways





E-bikes and Pathways

- Local Process
 - Legal review
 - Outreach
 - Pathways Task Force recommendation
 - Town/County policy approval
 - Implementation



E-bike Definition

- Federal Definition

- E-bikes are regulated for general product safety by Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Classified as a bicycle, not a motorized vehicle
- Does not regulate their use or where they may be ridden (does not override state traffic laws)
- “Low-Speed Electric Bicycle” defined as a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with:
 - Fully operable pedals
 - Electric motor of less than 750 watts
 - Maximum speed on paved level surface when powered solely by such a motor is less than 20 mph





E-bike Laws

E-BIKE REGULATIONS

MODEL LEGISLATION

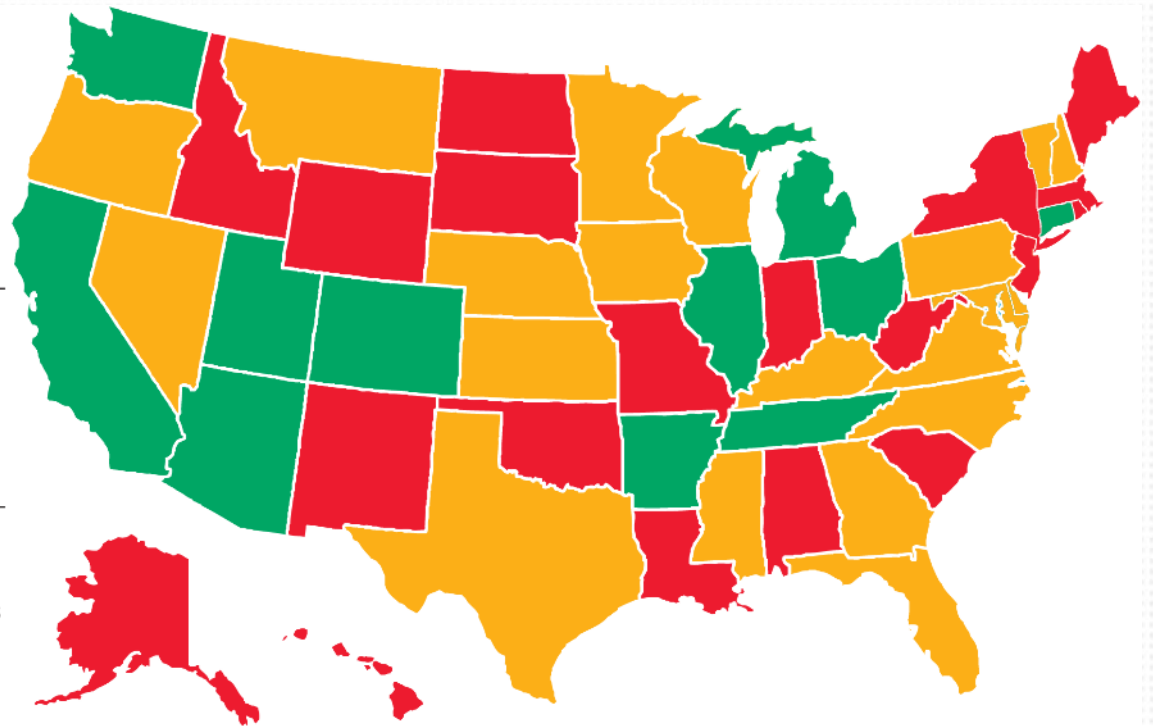
- » PFB and BPSA have enacted our model law, which defines and regulates three classes of e-bikes.

ACCEPTABLE

- » Regulated as a bicycle
- » Passengers allowed
- » No age minimum
- » No licensing or registration required
- » Can use existing bike infrastructure

PROBLEMATIC

- » Regulated as a moped or motor vehicle
- » Confusing equipment + use requirements
- » Confusing licensing + registration requirements
- » Confusing access to bike infrastructure





Local Process

- Legal Review
 - Federal definition does not preempt state regulation
 - States regulate the **use** of e-bikes on streets, paths, etc.
 - Some states have created definitions for modern e-bikes, Wyoming has not.
 - Wyoming
 - E-bikes defined as mopeds, subject to licensing, etc.
 - Technically legal or illegal to ride an e-bike in Wyoming
 - Long-term: adopt definition for modern e-bikes in state statutes



Local Process

- Town of Jackson
 - Can adopt local ordinances
 - Existing ordinance prohibited motorized vehicles on pathways and in bike lanes
 - Lack of specific definition for e-bikes at state level
- Teton County
 - Cannot enact ordinances but can adopt resolutions/rules
 - County policy specified non-motorized use only on paths
 - Can enforce state statutes
- Match policies between Town and County
- Federal lands regulations



Local Process

- Recommendations - 2017
 - Pathways Task Force and Friends of Pathways board
 - Allow the use of “low-speed electric bikes” (Class 1, 2, and 3) on Town of Jackson and Teton County pathways
 - Develop and/or expand the education program for e-bike regulations AND safe pathway use
 - Implement “slow zones” or other design elements
 - Explore a “reasonable and prudent user” law or policy



Taskforce Recommendation

Jackson Hole Community Pathways Taskforce Electric Bicycle Policy Recommendation September 2017

		Vehicle Info		Bikeway Access			
		Pedal Assist or Manual Throttle	Max. motor-assisted speed (mph)	Shared-use Pathway	On-Street Bike Lane	On-Street Bike Route	Protected Bike Lane (Cycle Track)
Vehicle Class	Bicycle	Pedal	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Class 1 E-Bike	Pedal	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Class 2 E-Bike	Throttle	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Class 3 E-Bike	Pedal	28	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Moped	Throttle	>28	No	No	Yes	No

Under federal law, an electric bicycle is referred to as a “low-speed electric bicycle,” which is defined as “a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph.” Significantly, this definition provides a maximum assisted speed that an electric bicycle can travel when being powered only by the motor, but does not provide a maximum assisted speed for when an electric bicycle is being powered by a combination of human and motor power.



Policy Approval

- Town and County Process
 - Presentations to Town Council and County Commission
 - Intro to e-bikes
 - Pros and Cons
 - Legal issues
 - Safety concerns
 - Task Force Recommendation
 - **Adopt a consistent policy for both jurisdictions**



E-bikes 101

- What is an e-bike?



- Almost identical to a traditional bike in appearance
- Has a small electric motor and battery that provide assistance to rider



E-bikes 101

- Not e-bikes!



- Mopeds or motor scooters
- Anything that doesn't meet the definition of "low-speed electric bicycle"



E-bikes and Pathways

- Why e-bikes?
 - Transportation
 - Minimize barriers to cycling
 - Carry weight (kids or cargo).
 - Decrease travel time
 - Travel longer distances
 - Terrain (hills)
 - Physical limitations
 - Aesthetic concerns
 - Other barriers:
 - Infrastructure
 - Weather
 - Recreation





E-bikes and Pathways

- Why e-bikes?
 - Multi-modal benefits
 - Environmental
 - Health
 - Financial
 - Mobility
 - E-bikes are “game-changers” for people who want to bike more and use their car less
 - Mode shift and local transportation goals





Outreach and Concerns

- E-bikes and Pathways Safety
 - **Speed**
 - Bicycle weight, rider ability, experience
 - “Safe” speed on Pathways
 - Varies based on conditions, multiple users, sight distance
 - Opposition
 - Non-motorized means non-motorized!
 - Opportunity for improved safety awareness
 - Additional education, outreach
 - “Slow” zones
 - Task Force recommendations



Implementation

- Town and County policy adoption – Nov. 2017
- Town Ordinance – June 2018
 - Registration/labelling program
- County Rules – Dec. 2018
- Current
 - Bike shop outreach
 - Town/County public info
 - Safety program and slow zones





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Questions and Discussion

