

# Legalizing E-Bikes in New York state



## What is a Class I E-bike?

An E-bike is similar to a “traditional” human-powered bicycle, except that it includes a small, silent electric motor that provides pedal assistance and allows the rider to climb hills, accelerate, and overcome wind resistance more easily than a manually powered bicycle. In conformity with federal guidelines, a Class I E-bike has a motor that will shut off when the bike reaches 20 miles per hour.

## What value do E-bikes provide to NYS residents?

- An E-bike can allow individuals who have physical challenges to ride bikes, when they would otherwise be unable to do so.
- E-bikes are a source of transportation for people who either don't want to drive a car or cannot afford one; they are perfect for a sweat-free commute to work!
- E-bikes reduce traffic congestion and create zero emissions, which makes them a green, environmentally sustainable mode of transportation.
- Studies show that a Class I E-bike can provide at least 75% of the health and fitness benefit of a fully human-powered bicycle.

## Legalizing E-bikes addresses equity issues

There are thousands of low-income people in New York State — from delivery workers in NYC to other transportation-challenged individuals upstate and on Long Island — who would use E-bikeshare in their communities where public transportation doesn't exist or is too infrequent to be practical.

## Legalizing E-bikes boosts our economy and increase sales tax

E-bikes are already being bought and sold in New York State, which means that they are contributing to the economy despite their not street-legal status. Based on statistics from states that have previously passed legislation defining E-bikes as bicycles, industry experts predict E-bike sales will double when they become legal in New York. In those states, bike tourism is increasing throughout, and it contributes to economies in struggling villages, towns and cities.

## The NYBC position on E-bike law considerations

Helmet laws and minorities: While NYBC strongly encourages all bicycle riders to wear a helmet every time they ride bikes, it's our position that we need to educate, not legislate. Helmet laws could result in unnecessary interactions with law enforcement, and we would rather educate riders so that they are choosing to wear helmets for safety.

Options for low income individuals using E-bikeshare: NYBC strongly encourages E-bikeshare to offer options that align with the purchasing trends of low income communities, including financial assistance and cash fare options similar to program already active in Washington, D. C. and Providence, Rhode Island.

Age restrictions: NYBC favors an E-bike bill with no age restriction for either passenger or rider, since we know that many parents use E-bikes to transport their children. Class 1 E-bikes do not travel at dangerously high speeds; in fact, they don't travel much faster than human-powered bicycles, so an age restriction is not necessary.

For more information, please visit us at: [ebikesny.net](http://ebikesny.net)



Contact us at [nybc@nybc.net](mailto:nybc@nybc.net)  
to be connected to a local or regional E-bike dealer