



## TENNESSEE'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » Electric bicycles are regulated like bicycles. 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.
- » Tennessee designates three classes of electric bicycles:
  - Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 3: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches 28 mph.
- » Persons under 14 years of age may not ride a Class 3 electric bicycle.
- » Riders and passengers of Class 3 electric bicycles are required to wear helmets.
- » Electric bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks.
- » Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles are allowed on bike paths. However, local governments have the authority to restrict the use of Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles on bike paths. When in doubt, check with your town, city, or county for local rules and regulations.
- » Class 3 electric bicycles have limited use of bicycle paths and are generally not permitted.

\*The following Tennessee laws are referenced: Tenn. Code §§ 55-8-101(40), 55-8-301, 55-8-302, 55-8-303, 55-8-304, 55-8-305, 55-8-306, 55-8-307.

## eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, country 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](http://peopleforbikes.org/emtb)
- » eMTB "Adventures" at [peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes](http://peopleforbikes.org/electric-bikes)

## TENNESSEE'S ELECTRIC BICYCLE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: Tennessee State Parks does not currently allow electric bicycles on State Park trails. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: On federal lands, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. Contact the U.S. Forest Service Southern Regional Office, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, or the Tennessee Valley Authority for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN TENNESSEE

- » **Buffalo Mountain ATV Trail**  
Johnson City | 22.4 miles
- » **Hickman County Gravel Grinder**  
Dickson | 35 miles

## 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.



## Learn more at [PeopleForBikes.org/electric-bikes](http://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