

# INDIANA'S E-BIKE LAW



## INDIANA'S E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » E-bikes are regulated like bicycles. The same rules of the road apply to both e-bikes and human-powered bicycles.
- » E-bikes are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.
- » Indiana designates three classes of e-bikes:
  - Class 1: Bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
  - Class 2: Bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike 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 e-bike reaches 28 mph.
- » Class 3 e-bikes are not allowed on a trail, bicycle path or multipurpose path unless it is within or adjacent to a highway or roadway, or they are specifically allowed by the local authority or state agency with jurisdiction.
- » The local authority or state agency with jurisdiction can restrict where e-bikes are allowed to ride. When in doubt, check locally for rules and regulations.
- » You must be 15 or older to operate a class 3 e-bike, although a person under 15 may ride a class 3 e-bike as a passenger.
- » Helmets must be worn by any person who operates or rides as a passenger on a class 3 e-bike and is under 18 years of age.

\* The following Indiana laws are referenced: Ind. Code § 9-13-2, 9-21-11-13.1, 14-8-2-185.

## eMTB GUIDELINES

- » On federal, state, county and local trails, e-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/e-bikes](http://peopleforbikes.org/e-bikes)

## With an e-bike, 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, e-bikes 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 e-bikes in the U.S. Every state's law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed e-bikes are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.

## INDIANA'S E-BIKE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The Indiana Department of Natural Resources does not allow eMTBs on mountain bike trails. eMTBs are allowed on motorized trails. Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed on all paved trails on DNR properties and Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes are allowed on all department roads. 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 Indiana 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 Eastern Regional Office for more information.

## GREAT eMTB RIDES IN INDIANA

- » Redbird SRA  
Dugger | 5 miles
- » Boone County Gravel Route  
Zionsville | 30.3 miles



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

- » Blogs and webinars
- » E-bike laws around the country
- » E-bike statistics and research
- » Buying guide
- » Retailer materials
- » eMTB management resources

