

## **Electric Assist and Electric Bike Policy**

An Electric assist or Electric bicycle is defined by the City of Durango as a tandem wheeled cycle that has an electric motor. The City defines electric bicycles as motorized and therefore allows their use on City property only where other motorized vehicles are allowed. Electric bikes are not allowed in the City Open Space, Parks or Trail systems.

IMBA supports e bikes where they support motorized use. The BLM and National Forrest Service also categorize e bikes as motorized vehicles and allow e-bikes on trails that allow motorized vehicles.

The definition of a low speed electric bicycle is: 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 170lbs is less than 20 mph. (Consumer product safety act) The Consumer Product Safety Act also states that a low speed electric bicycle as defined in section 28 (b) of the consumer Product Safety Act) shall not be considered a motor vehicle as defined by section 30102 (6) of title49, United States Code. Dec. 4 2002

The above definition of a low speed electric bicycle is consistent with Colorado DMV which also categorizes e-bikes as non-motorized. Currently only Boulder Colorado allows e-bikes with motor engaged on their pedestrian paths.

During my research I found that e-bikes come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. They are heavier than a regular bicycle and there are manufacturers that make full suspension mountain bike style e-bikes capable of going 50mph (Stealth electric bikes out of Australia notably). An e-bike can also be retro fitted with aftermarket accessories to enhance speed, thus taking it out of the original class of a low speed electric bicycle.

Sara Humphrey  
Parks, Open Space and Trails Crew Leader