

IOWA'S E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

- » In Iowa, an e-bike is defined as a “bicycle,” so long as the e-bike’s motor is under 750w, with a top motor-assisted speed of 20 mph under motor power alone, and with fully operable pedals. 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.

- » Helmets are not required and there is no age minimum for e-bike use. E-bikes are allowed on sidewalks and bike paths.

* The following Iowa laws are referenced: Iowa Code § 321.1.

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.

IOWA'S E-BIKE LAW FOR TRAILS

- » LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.
- » STATE: The Iowa Department of Natural Resources does not currently have an eMTB policy. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.
- » FEDERAL: There is little federal land managed for recreation in Iowa. However, for reference, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails on federal lands.

GREAT eMTB RIDES IN IOWA

- » **Grimes Gravel Loop**
Des Moines | 36 miles
- » **Grinnel Gravel Lake Loop**
Grinnel | 24 miles

CHECK OUT

- » A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb
- » eMTB “Adventures” at 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 and the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association are 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.



Learn more at 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

