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City of Duluth Electric-Assist Bicycle Policy Statement

Purpose: This policy is to provide guidance to the public in regards to the operation of electric-assist bicycles within the City of Duluth.

Policy: The operator of an electric-assist bicycle is granted the same rights and responsibilities applicable to the driver of a vehicle as defined in Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 1. An electric-assist bicycle, as defined in MN Statute 169.011, subdivision 27, may be operated on any trail designated for bicycle use within the City of Duluth.

**items in red text are State Statute amendments effective August 1, 2021*

References:

MN Statute [169.222, subdivision 1](#): TRAFFIC LAWS APPLY.

Every person operating a bicycle shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle by this chapter, except in respect to those provisions in this chapter relating expressly to bicycles and in respect to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature cannot reasonably be applied to bicycles.

MN Statute [169.011, subdivision 4](#): BICYCLE.

- (a) "Bicycle" means every device capable of being propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle through equipped with two front or rear wheels. Bicycle includes an electric-assisted bicycle, as defined in subdivision 27.
- (b) "Bicycle" does not include scooters, motorized foot scooters, or similar devices

MN Statute [169.011, subdivision 27](#): ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLE.

"Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle with two or three wheels that:

- (1) has a saddle and fully operable pedals for human propulsion;
- (2) meets the requirements for bicycles under Code of Federal Regulations, title 16, part 1512, or successor requirements;
- (3) **is equipped with an electric motor that has a power output of not more than 750 watts; and**
- (4) **meets the requirements of a class 1, class 2, or class 3 electric-assisted bicycle.**

MN Statute [169.222, subdivision 4, Section 59](#): **Electric-assisted bicycle; riding rules.**

(a) A person may operate an electric-assisted bicycle in the same manner as provided for operation of other bicycles, including but not limited to operation on the shoulder of a roadway, a bicycle lane, and a bicycle route, and operation without the motor engaged on a bikeway or bicycle trail.

(b) A person may operate a class 1 or class 2 electric-assisted bicycle with the motor engaged on a bicycle path, bicycle trail, or shared use path unless prohibited under section 85.015, subdivision 1d; 85.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (d); or 160.263, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), as applicable.

(c) A person may operate a class 3 electric-assisted bicycle with the motor engaged on a bicycle path, bicycle trail, or shared use path unless the local authority or state agency having jurisdiction over the bicycle path or trail prohibits the operation.

(d) The local authority or state agency having jurisdiction over a trail that is designated as nonmotorized and that has a natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the native soil with no added surfacing materials may regulate the operation of an electric-assisted bicycle.

(e) No person under the age of 15 shall operate an electric-assisted bicycle..

City of Duluth [Legislative Code, Chapter 9](#): ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLE.

Electric-assisted bicycle shall have the same definition as provided in in Minn. Stat Section 169.011 Subd. 27, as amended.

