E-BIKES

In Minnesota, e-bikes are generally permitted wherever traditional bicycles are allowed, including on most trails and sidewalks, with some restrictions based on class and local regulations; MN State Statute 169.011. The City of Elko New Market does not currently have any local regulations/restrictions in place regarding e-bikes. E-bikes are defined as having two or three wheels, a seat, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor of 750 watts or less. Riders must be at least 15 years old, and helmets are required for those under 18. No insurance is required to operate these bikes.

Classes of E-bikes; Minnesota recognizes three classes of e-bikes:

Class 1: Pedal-assist, motor only provides assistance up to 20 mph.
Class 2: Throttle-assist, motor can propel the bike without pedaling up to 20 mph.
Class 3: Pedal-assist, motor provides assistance up to 28 mph.

Safety - Riders should be aware of and yield to pedestrians and slower trail users. Audible signals (bells or voice) should be used when passing. Helmets are required for riders under 18. E-bikes cannot be modified to bypass speed limits.

E-Bike

MOTORIZED BIKES

Motorized Bikes which have no pedals require a driver's license or motorized bike permit to operate. They have a top operating speed of 30mph. They are not allowed to operate on trails or sidewalks and they must be registered to be operated on streets;

MN State Statute 169.223. If registered as a motorcycle to operate on the streets requires liability insurance.

Motorized Bike

E-MOTORCYCLES/DIRT BIKES

E-Motorcycles/Dirt bikes are not specifically defined in State Law. They look like a more traditional motocross type of motorcycle/dirt bikes. They have no bike pedals and they are capable of speeds of more than 30mph. They do not fit any specific vehicle definition in State Statutes therefore they default to being considered a motorcycle. They are not allowed on sidewalks, walking/bike trails, or in City streets. These are only allowed to be operated on private property.

E-Motorcycle/Dirt Bike

MOTORIZED FOOT SCOOTERS

No person under 12 years may operate a motorized foot scooter. No person may operate a motorized foot scooter upon a sidewalk, except when necessary to enter or leave adjacent property. No person under the age of 18 years may operate a motorized foot scooter without wearing properly fitted and fastened protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety. If operated on a roadway the person shall

ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. A person may operate a motorized foot scooter on a bicycle parth, bicycle lane, or bicycle trail if not prohibited by the local governing body having jurisdiction over the path.

Motorized Foot Scooter

LAWS ABOUT RIDING BIKES AND E-BIKES

According to Minnesota law, bicycle and e-Bike riders must:

- Travel with the flow of traffic, unless otherwise signed (MN State Statutes **169.18** and **169.222**)
- Stop at all stoplights (MN State Statutes **169.06** and **169.222**)
- Slow down when approaching intersections with stop signs and proceed without stopping if no vehicle or pedestrian is present (MN State Statute **169.222**)
- Use a light when riding at night (MN State Statute **169.222**)
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks (MN State Statute **169.21**)

The following is a summary of the Minnesota Statutes (2017) pertaining to bicyclists. For more details concerning the following laws and penalties, please visit www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=169.222.

1. What is the definition of a bicycle?

Minnesota Statute 169.011, Subdivision 4:

> (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 though 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.

2. Is a bicycle considered a motor vehicle in Minnesota?

No. *Minnesota Statute 169.011, Subdivision 42:*

> A "motor vehicle" is defined as every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires. Motor vehicle

does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device or a vehicle moved solely by human power.

3. What is an electric-assisted bicycle and where can I use one?

Minnesota Statute 169.011, Subdivision 27:

> "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.

Minnesota Statute 169.011, Subdivision 47:

> An electric-assisted bicycle with pedals and a motor that can't go faster than 20 mph is considered a bicycle under state law; all relevant bicycle laws apply.

Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 6(b)

> The driver of an electric-assisted bicycle must be at least 15 years old.

Minnesota Statute 85.015, Subdivision 1(d) and Statute 85.018, Subdivision 2(d):

> Generally electric-assisted bicycles may operate like bicycles do, unless otherwise posted.

4. What is the definition of a roadway?

Minnesota Statute 169.011, Subdivision 68:

> "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk or shoulder. During periods when the commissioner allows the use of dynamic shoulder lanes as defined in subdivision 25, roadway includes that shoulder. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" as used herein shall refer to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

4. Are bicyclists allowed to roll through stop signs?

Yes, as long as they don't violate anyone else's right of way. When approaching a stop sign, a bicyclist should be traveling slow enough to stop before the crosswalk if necessary. However after yielding as such, if there is not a pedestrian crossing in front of them or other approaching near enough to constitute an immediate hazard, they may continue without making a full stop.

5. Are there passing laws motor vehicles must follow when passing a bicyclist? What if there is a no passing zone?

Yes, 3 feet is the minimum passing distance a motor vehicle must provide. More space is better and needed for safety at higher speeds. *Minnesota Statute 169.18, Subdivision 3*:

> (3) the operator of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle or individual proceeding in the same direction on the roadway shall leave a safe distance, but in no case less than three feet clearance, when passing the bicycle or individual and shall maintain clearance until safely past the overtaken bicycle or individual.
>
> Motorists can also cross a double yellow line to the left side of the roadway to pass a bicycle going in the same direction when it is safe to do so, Minnesota Statute 169.18, Subdivision 5, and:
>
> (c) … (2) the driver of the motor vehicle either (i) provides a safe clearance distance, in no case less than the greater of three feet or one-half the width of the motor vehicle, or (ii) completely enters the left lane of the highway; (3) the operator of the bicycle is not (i) making a left turn, or (ii) signaling that the bicycle operator intends to make a left turn; and (4) the driver of the motor vehicle complies with all other applicable requirements under this section.

6. What other rules must a motorist follow when overtaking or following bicyclists?

Minnesota Statute 169.18, Subdivision 4:

> (4) the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. In no event shall such movement be made by driving in a bicycle lane or onto the shoulder, whether paved or unpaved, or off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.

7. Does a bicyclist have to obey the same traffic laws as a motorist?

Yes. Minnesota traffic law explains the various rights and responsibilities that every vehicle operator is expected to follow, including bicyclists. Separately, there are statutes that only apply to certain types of vehicles (e.g. buses, tractors, motorcycles, motor vehicles, etc) which do not apply to bicyclists.

Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 1:

> 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.

8. Is it legal to carry another person on a bicycle? What about a child seat?

Yes, if the bicycle was designed to carry a passenger or has an approved and attached child seat. *Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 2*:

> No bicycle, including a tandem bicycle, cargo or utility bicycle, or trailer, shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except an adult rider may carry a child in a seat designed for carrying children that is securely attached to the bicycle.

9. Does a bicyclist have to ride with the direction of traffic?

Yes. A bicyclist on the roadway in a traffic lane should ride in the direction of traffic, as should a bicyclist on the shoulder or in a bike lane. *Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 1 and 4(b)*:

> 4(b) If a bicycle is traveling on a shoulder of a roadway, the bicycle shall travel in the same direction as adjacent vehicular traffic.

10. May bicyclists ride two abreast?

Although riding single-file is often safest, bicyclists are allowed to ride two-abreast on roads. *Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 4*:

> (c) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway or shoulder shall not ride more than two abreast and shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

11. Must a bicyclist ride on the sidewalk?

No. Minnesota law does not require bicyclists to ride on the sidewalk and BikeMN does not generally recommend it because of safety hazards to the bicyclist and to pedestrians. Most importantly, sidewalks are not designed for bicycle travel speed. (BikeMN recommends that children 10 and under ride on the sidewalk and under the leadership of an adult as they may not yet have developed the physical skills and cognitive ability to navigate roadways.)

169.225 MOTORIZED FOOT SCOOTER
Subd. 2. **Sidewalk and passenger prohibition.** No person may operate a motorized foot scooter upon a sidewalk, except when necessary to enter or leave adjacent property. No person may operate a motorized foot scooter that is carrying any person other than the operator.

12. Is it legal for a bicyclist to ride on the sidewalk?

Sometimes. *Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 4*:

> Minnesota law does not prohibit sidewalk riding unless in a business district or where prohibited by city ordinance. In Minnesota, a business district, defined by a block with more than 50 percent business use. Additionally, a person lawfully operating a bicycle on a sidewalk, or across a roadway or shoulder on a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances. This means that the bicyclist must not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is approaching and it is impossible for the driver to stop. While riding on a sidewalk a bicyclist should move at pedestrian speeds and must also continue to give an audible signal when passing other pedestrians and yield to other pedestrians on the sidewalk. (BikeMN recommends that children 10 and under ride on the sidewalk and under the leadership of an adult as they

may not yet have developed the physical skills and cognitive ability to navigate roadways.)

13. Does a bicyclist have to wear a helmet?

Minnesota state law does not require bicyclists to wear helmets. The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota strongly recommends wearing one because they can prevent or reduce the severity of head and brain injuries in the event of a crash.

169.225 MOTORIZED FOOT SCOOTER
Subd. 4. **Protective headgear.** No person under the age of 18 years old may operate a motorized foot scooter without wearing properly fitted and fastened protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety.

14. Does a bicyclist have to use lights when it's dark?

Yes. *Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 6*:

> (a) No person shall operate a bicycle at night time unless the bicycle or its operator is equipped with (1) a lamp which emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; and (2) a red reflector of a type approved by the Department of Public Safety which is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. A bicycle equipped with lamps that are visible from a distance of at least 500 feet from both the front and the rear is deemed to fully comply with this paragraph.

15. Does a bicyclist have to signal their turns or lane changes?

Yes, but not always. *Minnesota Statute 169.222, Subdivision 8*:

> An arm signal to turn right or left shall be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the bicycle before turning, unless the arm is needed to control the bicycle, and shall be given while the bicycle is stopped waiting to turn.