

Central Marin Police Authority:

Laws Regarding E-Bikes

The Central Marin Police Authority and the Town of San Anselmo would like to remind our community of laws regarding the use of E-Bikes:

Electric Bicycles (E-bikes) Rules of the Road:

1. **Electric Bike Definition:** An electric bicycle is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. Per Assembly Bill #: 1096, manufacturers or distributors of E-bikes must affix a label to each bicycle that describes its classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage. E-bikes do not need to be registered, insured or taxed and no license is required for the rider (CVC §24616).
2. **Three (3) classes of electric bicycles have been established:**
 1. **Class 1:** A low speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a motor which provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when a speed of 20 mph is reached. Class 1 e-bikes are allowed wherever bikes are allowed, unless otherwise posted (bike paths, bike lanes, bike routes). Same rules apply to e-bike riders as bike riders while on the roadway. *Ages 17 and under must wear a helmet.*
 2. **Class 2:** A low speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a motor used exclusively to propel the bicycle and NOT capable of providing assistance when a speed of 20 mph is reached. Class 2 e-bikes are also allowed wherever bikes are allowed, unless otherwise posted. *Ages 17 and under must wear a helmet.*
 3. **Class 3:** A low speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a speedometer, and a motor which provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when a speed of 28 mph is reached.
3. **All riders must wear a helmet while riding a Class 3 e-bike, regardless of age.**
4. **In Marin County, e-bikes cannot exceed 15 mph** on any County-maintained pathway. E-Bicycles will boost up to 20 MPH, but riders cannot exceed 15 mph.
5. **You CANNOT ride a Class 3 e-bike on a bike path** and must ride the e-bike in a bike lane or bike route.
6. **It is up to each specific County to impose their own law about sidewalks.** As of 2022, there are no statutes that authorize or prohibit riding e-bikes or bicycles on “sidewalks”, however Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are allowed on multi-use paths and bike lanes where bicycles are also permitted, which could be interpreted to include sidewalks.

7. **Marin County Ordinances for e-bikes:**

1. Marin's updated ordinance allows Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on public roads and parking lots within Marin County Parks facilities, and on County paved bicycle and multi-use pathways.
2. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are also allowed in other areas when specifically signed to permit them.
3. Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited within Parks facilities except upon public roadways and parking lots or when specifically signed to permit them.

8. **San Anselmo Municipal Codes for bikes and e-bikes:**

1. San Anselmo Muni Code (MC) section 3-5.304 states that the rider of a bicycle must follow all the same rules of the road as the driver of a vehicle.
2. Section 3-5.803 of the Muni Code prohibits vehicles being driven on sidewalks; therefore, bicycles and e-bikes are prohibited from riding on sidewalks.