



Bicycle, Electric Bicycle, and Electric Scooter Transportation in Colorado

This *issue brief* provides an overview of state law regarding bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters, as well as state and local electric bicycle rebate programs.

General Regulations

In Colorado, persons riding a bicycle:

- must not carry more people than the bicycle is designed to carry;
- must not attach themselves to a motor vehicle on a roadway;
- must ride in the right-hand lane when riding on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic, with certain exceptions;
- may ride in the left lane if the roadway is one-way and there is enough room for other vehicles to safely pass;
- may not ride side by side, except on paths set aside for the exclusive use of non-motorized vehicles;
- must keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times;
- must signal the intention to turn or stop; and
- must yield the right of way to pedestrians.¹

Safety Requirements

Passing. When overtaking a bicycle, a driver must have a three-foot separation from the cyclist, including mirrors or other projections.²

Lights and reflectors. All bicycle, electric bicycle, and electric scooter riders riding between sunset and sunrise, or during conditions that otherwise impair visibility, must have lamp that emits white light at least 500 feet from the front. Bicycles and electric bicycles must also be equipped with a red reflector in the rear.³

Braking. Every bicycle or electric bicycle must be equipped with brakes that will enable the rider to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour (mph).

Intersections with stop signs and stop lights. Persons 15 years or older, or younger if accompanied by an adult, on a bicycle or scooter may pass through an intersection with a stop sign without stopping if they:

- slow to a reasonable speed; and
- yield to vehicles and pedestrians in or approaching the intersection.⁴

¹Section 42-1-1412, C.R.S.

²Section 42-4-1003, C.R.S.

³Section 42-4-221, C.R.S.

⁴Section 42-4-1412.5, C.R.S.

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Cyclists and persons using scooters may turn right or proceed through an intersection with a red light after first stopping. Similar to drivers, they may not turn left when there is a red light unless the street is a one-way.

Electric Bicycles

In Colorado, electric bicycles, also known as e-bikes, are required to conform to one of three classifications based on top speed and pedal assist.

Every manufacturer or distributor of new electric bicycles must permanently attach a label that contains the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electrical assisted bicycle. State law prohibits any person from knowingly modifying an electric bicycle to change its speed.

Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles are allowed on the same bicycle and pedestrian paths as conventional bicycles. Class 3 electric bicycles may not be ridden on a bicycle or pedestrian path unless the path is within a street or highway, or permitted by a local jurisdiction.

Electric Scooters

An electric scooter is defined in law as a device:

- weighing less than 100 lbs.;
- with handlebars and an electric motor;
- powered by an electric motor; and
- that has a maximum speed of 20 mph.

A local government may regulate the operation of an electric scooter in a manner that is no more restrictive than the manner in

which the local government may regulate the operation of a class 1 electrical assisted bicycle.

E-Bicycle Rebates

The city and county of Denver, the city of Boulder, and the state of Colorado offer rebates for the purchase of an electric bicycle in an effort to reduce miles traveled by car. Both Denver and Boulder offer a limited number of rebates directly to consumers, with Boulder choosing recipients at random and Denver awarding a limited number of vouchers on a first-come, first-served basis, every other month.

The statewide program was created upon the passage of [Senate Bill 22-193](#). The program is administered by the Colorado Energy Office, which awards grants to nonprofit organizations, local governments, tribal governments, and other community-based organizations to create e-bike programs that give e-bikes to low- and moderate-income Coloradans. [Eight organizations](#) across the state received grants in Fiscal Year 2023.