

# Kickin' Asphalt Bicycle Club



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## KABC eBike Policy

December 2024

### POLICY

It is Kickin' Asphalt Bike Club (KABC) policy that Class 1 Pedal-Assist e-Bikes may be used by KABC members, in good standing, on any KABC organized ride in accordance with the definitions and guidelines outlined in this policy. The use of e-Bikes on B Group (B-1, B-2, and B-3) rides must be "road bike" design. No hybrid, commuter or mountain bike styles are allowed on B group rides. The use of e-Bikes on C+, C and Social group rides may be of any bike design. Class 2 and Class 3 e-Bikes are never allowed on any KABC group ride. Guest riders are never allowed to use e-Bikes.

### SCOPE

This policy and these guidelines apply to all KABC members, in good standing, participating in any KABC organized ride event across all ride groups. This policy does NOT apply to Guest Riders participating in a KABC organized ride event.

This policy applies to the use of e-bikes. For the purposes of this policy, electronic bikes (e-Bikes) are defined as a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that may be activated in order to assist with or replace pedaling. E-Bikes are divided into three categories:

- **Class 1 e-Bikes:** A motorized bicycle that only provides assistance when the e-bike rider is pedaling and has a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph.
- **Class 2 e-Bikes:** A throttle-assisted motorized bicycle (pedaling is not necessary in order for the bicycle to move forward) with a maximum speed of 20 mph.
- **Class 3 e-Bikes:** A motorized bicycle that only provides assistance when the e-bike rider is pedaling and has a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph.

## **GUIDELINES**

**KABC Allowed e-Bike Classes:** Only Class 1 (pedal assist, top speed of 20 mph) e-Bikes may be used on KABC rides. Class 2 and Class 3 e-Bikes are never allowed. In the remainder of these guidelines, the term “e-Bike” refers only to Class 1 e-Bikes.

**Use of e-Bike motor:** E-Bikes allow the user to control the extent of the assistance given to the rider while pedaling, from no assistance (motor is off) to assisting with the pedaling until the e-Bike reaches a speed of 20 mph. Several communities in which KABC rides do not allow e-bikes to be used (or restrict their use). Since it may be difficult to tell if an e-Bike motor is engaged or off just by looking at a group of riders, this policy applies regardless of whether the rider is actually using the motor or not. In other words, if a given KABC ride states that no e-Bikes are allowed, then it is not sufficient for a rider to state that they won't turn the motor on.

**E-Bikes on B-1, B-2, and B-3 rides:** Use of e-Bikes on B group rides will be allowed for a trial period until 7/1/2025, at which time the board will make a determination on whether to continue allowing their use on B group rides. For an e-Bike to be used on a B group ride, it must be a road bike style, which is lighter than some styles of e-Bikes and suitable for riding in a group at B group speeds. A rider will indicate they are using an e-Bike when registering, and for their first ride with the group they will sweep; that is, they will ride at the rear of the pace line and will not participate in setting the pace. A determination will be made as to whether they can participate in a pace line in future rides.

**Routes that allow e-bikes:** The group Ride Coordinator for each ride group is responsible for annotating the master ride scheduling worksheet to indicate if e-Bikes are allowed on a particular ride. The calendar on the KABC website provides the specific details of each ride. If e-Bikes are allowed for a particular ride/route, it will be annotated in the ride details for the calendar ride event. If there are restrictions, then the group Ride Coordinator will notify the Ride Leader so that the registered ride participants can be informed prior to the ride.

**Policy Enforcement:** While the responsibility for complying with the policy is with every KABC member, there may be cases where a rider with an e-Bike arrives for a ride where e-Bikes are not permitted. In these cases, the Ride Leader should remind the rider that e-Bikes are not allowed on the ride, and that it will reflect poorly on the club should the rider continue on the ride. However, the Ride Leader should not feel compelled to take extraordinary measures (cancel the ride, physically restrain the e-Bike rider, remove the battery from the e-Bike, etc.) in order to make the rider comply. Any incidents should be reported in the Ride Leader report, and appropriate remediation measures can be discussed among the KABC President, Vice-President, Ride Director, and Safety & Education Director.