

2026.IE29.10 - Supporting the Proposed Modernization of Ontario's Framework for Power-Assisted Bicycles (E-Bikes)



Recap from last time



LEGAL or **ILLEGAL** in Toronto bike lanes











All e-bikes per MTO definitions



Current state: well intended, but very confusing for all road users



Vehicle Type / Description	Road	Painted Bikeway	Physically Separated Bikeway	Trail	Sidewalk
 <p>Bicycles *Electric powered bicycles Tricycles</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
<p>Bicycles/tricycles and *electric powered bicycles/tricycles that require some muscular power</p>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
 <p>Cargo/e cargo bike/tricycle</p>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
<p>Cargo/e cargo bike/tricycle (with a container in back or front) that requires some muscular power</p>	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
 <p>Throttle, electric motor-scooter</p>	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
<p>Throttle, electric motor-scooter that requires no pedalling and no muscular power. Max 32km/h speed capability</p>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
 <p>Electric kick-scooter *Electric skateboard *Electric kick-scooter with a seat *Electric unicycle *Electric one-wheel or hoverboard</p>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<p>* Not allowed under Ontario Highway Traffic Act</p>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

 <p>Skateboard In-line skates/roller blades Kick-scooter</p>	Using human power / muscular powered devices	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
<p>Except where posted to prohibit</p>	Must not ride recklessly or negligently					
 <p>Moped (motor scooter) Motorcycle</p>	Capable of speeds greater than 32km/h	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
 <p>Low-speed vehicle (LSV) (e mini-car)</p>	Low-speed vehicle (LSV) (e mini-car) must meet federal standards, have licence plate, be insured and registered through Service Ontario. Max 40km/h speed capability. Requires driver's licence to operate	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
<p>Only on roads with maximum speed limit of 50km/h</p>						
 <p>*Electric enclosed three-wheeler *Electric enclosed 4-wheeler not meeting LSV standards</p>	* Not allowed under Ontario HTA & no HTA pilot project	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗



Is increased micromobility use a challenge or an opportunity?



- Lobby the federal government to require consistent standards for micromobility imports, especially power and battery safety standards (UL 2271 & UL 2849) to reduce risk of electrical fires.
- Lobby the provincial government to align its e-bike and micromobility regulations with other jurisdictions (including ending its ban on child passengers on e-bikes).
- Hold app-based delivery companies accountable for rider behaviour and vehicle compliance, and set realistic delivery timelines and livable wages to disincentivize dangerous riders.
- Require local retailers to inform prospective customers about micromobility regulations.
- Continue expansion of the Bike Share Program across the city and densify along existing bike routes.
- Continue building safe, protected, and connected infrastructure – Bill 212 is only a challenge not a barrier.
- Provide convenient and affordable secure bicycle parking to enable more folks to adopt e-bikes.
- Adopt an e-bike and e-cargo bike rebate program for both personal and commercial use.
- Align TTC micromobility regulations with Metrolinx.
- Prioritize the proposed TTC e-bike battery swap and exchange program.
- Lobby the provincial government to legalize the “bicycle safety stop” or “stop as yield” like 11 US states.
- Stop wasting limited police resources on harassing people on bikes in our streets and parks.



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New MTO Proposal: 2 Classes of Power-Assisted Bicycles






	Class 1	Class 2
Example Photos		
Definition	Required to have an exposed frame, not covered by body panels, and cannot have a footrest or a platform for the operator's feet	
Propulsion Method	Pedal-assist only with exemption of "walk-assist function" up to 6km/h	May be throttle, button or pedal assist
Pedals	Must be equipped at all times with functional hand cranks or foot pedals that are capable of propelling the bicycle by muscular power and are usable during normal operation of the bicycle	
Maximum Unladen Weight	55 kilograms	120 kilograms*
Maximum Power-Assisted Speed	32 kilometres/hour	
Seat Requirements	Operator seat height must be adjustable	
Maximum Motor Power	Total continuous power output rating, measured at the shaft of each motor, of 500 W or less	
Licence/Insurance/Registration	No	
Minimum Operator Age	16	
Are passengers permitted?	Yes – passengers of any age are permitted, provided a seat is available (either an original equipment seat or a seat designed to be compatible with the vehicle)	
Are helmets required?	Compliant bicycle or motorcycle helmet required for all riders	

New MTO Proposal: Motor-Assisted and Limited-Speed Vehicles



- Requiring moped/scooter- or motorcycle-style electric motor vehicles to meet existing motor vehicle class standards
- A 12-month education and awareness period is proposed to support the public, manufacturers, retailers, and stakeholders in understanding and complying

Vehicle Class		Motor-Assisted Bicycle (Moped)	Limited-Speed Motorcycle (LSM)	Motorcycle
				
Vehicle Requirements	Class	Motor Vehicle (may be electric or gas powered)		
	Federal Compliance Label	Required to certify the vehicle meets all applicable Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS)		
	Maximum Weight	55 kilograms	No limit	
	Maximum Speed	50 kilometres/hour with motor assistance	70 kilometres/hour with motor assistance	N/A
	Operable Pedals Required	Yes	No	
Operator Requirements	Licence	M or M with condition L		M or M with condition M
	Insurance/Registration	Yes		
	Helmet	Required for all riders		
	Driver Age	16+		
	Passengers	No	Yes	



No Class 3 in Ontario Proposal (usually for recreation)



What's the Difference? E-BIKE CLASSIFICATIONS



TheRoundup.org



Class 1 20MPH

Pedal Assisted
No assistance without pedaling
Same rules & access rights as
regular bikes



Class 2 20MPH

Throttle Assisted
Can be ridden without pedaling
Same rules & access rights as
regular bikes



Class 3 28MPH

Pedal Assisted / Optional Throttle
No assistance without pedaling
Age limit applies
Usage areas restricted



MTO Proposal: The Good!



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MTO Proposal: The Less Good! (But Still Pretty Good!)



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Concerns:

- 120 kg unladen weight limit (Toronto has already opted-in to provincial e-cargo bike pilot for e-cargo bikes over 55 kg)
- Lack of battery safety standards as part of definitions

