

Get the Right E-Ride

There are many options when it comes to electric-powered personal vehicles. Only some of them are legal to ride on public roads and paths.

You want to be sure that you can use your e-ride, the way you want to use it. If that includes riding on roads, shared paths, or sidewalks, here are some things you need to know to get the right e-ride.

3 Main Categories

1 E-Bikes

Two or three wheels with fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts. E-bikes come in three classes.

2 Motorized Foot Scooters

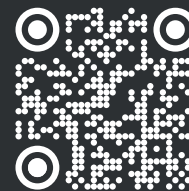
Two or three wheels with handlebars and a floorboard, powered by a motor with a top speed of 20 mph.

3 EPAMD

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device: A self-balancing device with one wheel or two wheels not in tandem. This includes Segways, Hoverboards, Onewheels, and electric unicycles.



Find out
more with the
interactive
E-ride guide



wtsc.wa.gov/erideguide

E-LEGAL

An introduction to
electric micromobility
laws in Washington

TARGET ZERO

Each e-micromobility vehicle has different rules. Check the chart below to ride legally and safely.

CAN I RIDE ON A:

					
	Class 1 E-bike	Class 2 E-bike	Class 3 E-bike	Motorized Scooter	EPAMD
E-bike power input	Pedal-assist only	Pedal-assist or throttle	Pedal-assist only	N/A	N/A
Max motor-assisted speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph	20 mph	Less than 20 mph
Minimum age to operate	None	None	16	16*	None
Public road?	✓	✓	✓	✓ Max speed 15 mph	✓ *
Sidewalk?	✓ *	✓ *	✗	✗ *	✓ *
Shared use path?	✓	✓	✗	✓ *	✓
Non-motorized trail?	✗	✗	✗	✗ *	✓ *
Freeway shoulder?	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

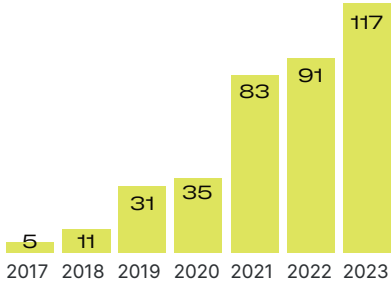
*This chart represents Washington State law. Where noted, local jurisdictions may establish rules that differ from state laws.

- If your bike, scooter, or EPAMD exceeds the limits of these categories, it's a motor vehicle.
- A motor vehicle must meet all federal safety requirements, must be registered, and the operator must have a driver license. Operating a motor vehicle without a valid license and, if required, endorsement can result in the impoundment of the vehicle.

WHY IT MATTERS

- E-micromobility fatalities in the US have increased, on average, over 50 percent a year since 2017.
- Emergency room visits have increased from 34,000 in 2017 to 87,800 in 2023.

E-MICROMOBILITY FATALITIES IN THE US



E-RIDE SAFETY

- PROTECT YOURSELF

Faster speeds mean bigger impacts compared to human-powered vehicles. Wear a good quality helmet.
- BE PREDICTABLE

Follow traffic laws. Use hand signals to communicate your intentions while riding.
- THINK AHEAD

Watch for hazards and anticipate what other road users will do next. Be ready to stop to avoid a crash.