2/25/2026

OHPD E-Bike Safety

Officer Wolke

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Bike Safety

- The Ohio Revised Code defines a bicycle as a vehicle; this includes E-Bikes. Bicyclists on either a traditional bike or E-Bike fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles
  - You must also ride on the right side of the road as far right as is safe and practical

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ORC Traffic Laws

- ORC 4511.20 No person shall operate a vehicle on any street or highway in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property
- ORC 4511.202 Operation without being in reasonable control of vehicle
- ORC 4511.43 Right-of-way rule at through highways (intersections), stop signs, yield signs. All bicycles SHALL stop at stop signs and yield to oncoming traffic
- ORC 4511.33 Driving in marked lanes
  - A vehicle or trackless trolley shall be driven, as nearly as is practicable, entirely within a single lane or line of traffic and shall not be moved from such lane or line until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety

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ORC Traffic Laws Cont...

- ORC 4511.56 Bicycle Signal Devices From sunset to sunrise, and any other time a person or vehicle on a highway are not discernable at 1,000 ft. every bicycle or Electric bicycle shall be equipped with:
  - A lamp mounted on the front or emitted from the operator that emits a white light at least 500 ft forward and 300 ft to the sides,
  - A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from between one hundred and six hundred ft
  - A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of at least five hundred ft to the rear

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Citations

- Failure to follow traffic laws may result in a citation. Juveniles that are issued a citation have a mandatory court appearance that require parent accompaniment
- Fridays at 7:30 AM

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E-Bike Classifications

- Class 1: Pedal Assist only with no throttle and a max assist of 20 MPH
- Class 2: Throttle Assist with a max speed of 20 MPH
- Class 3: Pedal Assist only with no throttle and a max speed of 28 MPH

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ORC 4511.522

- NO person under 16 years of age shall operate a class 3 Electric Bike
- No person shall operate a class 3 Electric Bike without a protective helmet
- Electric Bikes may only be ridden on the sidewalk if the electric motor is NOT engaged
- A permanently affixed label in a prominent location shall specify whether the electric bike is a class 1, 2, or 3 as well as the top speed the bicycle is capable of reaching.

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ORC Definition of an E-Scooter

- Low-speed micromobility device" means a device weighing less than one hundred pounds that has handlebars, is propelled by an electric motor or human power, and has an attainable speed on a paved level surface of not more than twenty miles per hour when propelled by the electric motor

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E-Scooters (Low-speed micromobility devices) 4511.514

- No operator of a low-speed micromobility device shall do any of the following:
- (1) Fail to yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians at all times;
- (2) Fail to give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian;
- (3) Operate the device at night unless the device or its operator is equipped with or wearing both of the following:
- (a) A lamp pointing to the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet;
- (b) A red reflector facing the rear that is visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams
- No person who is under sixteen years of age shall rent a low-speed micromobility device.
- No person shall knowingly rent a low-speed micromobility device to a person who is under sixteen years of age.
- No person shall knowingly rent a low-speed micromobility device on behalf of a person who is under sixteen years of age.
- No person shall operate a low-speed micromobility device at a speed greater than twenty miles per hour

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E Dirt Bikes

- This is still a dirt bike **NOT AN E BIKE**
- These can go as fast as 40 MPH
- Meant for Off Road Use
- For a dirt bike to be operated on the road the following must apply:

1. Valid Driver License with motorcycle endorsement
2. ODOT approved helmet until 18
3. Registered Vehicle (License Plate)
4. Tail lights, turn signals, mirrors

Please check local laws for age or license requirements before use

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STATS FROM “BE CRASH FREE”

- E-Bike Injuries Increased 43X
- In just five years, e-bike injuries went from 751 incidents to nearly 24,000 hospitalizations annually
- The Youth Crisis: Children 14 and under represent 36% of all e-bike injuries, nearly double their share of the population. Your community's young riders are at disproportionate risk.
- The problem is clear: Modern e-bikes travel at speeds up to 28 mph 3 with added weight and momentum that traditional bicycles don't have

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QUICK SEARCH FOR OFF ROAD LOCATIONS

- "Come to Dux Motorcycle Club. We have MX races the last Sunday of September, October and November (every year). Dirt bike and four wheeler classes. $5 at the gate per person. We sell food and drinks but your more than welcome to bring your own… No glass bottles, No Dogs. Dux Motorcycle Club"
  - 4405 Piehl Rd, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267
- Maumee State Forest (APV trails)
  - **3390 County Rd. D, Swanton, OH 43558**
- **Bundy Hill Off Road**
  - 9960 E Chicago Rd. Jerome, MI 49249
  - **Has different difficulty level trails**

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THANK YOU

Officer Wolke: wolkeb@ottawahills.org

OHPD: 419-531-4211

Contact us with any questions and we will do our best to assist you. Safety for everyone on the road is of the utmost important to us

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