



Ottawa Hills Police Department

Bike & Electric Bike Safety Know the Rules!

At the Ottawa Hills Police Department (OHPD), the safety of our cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists is a top priority. Whether you're riding a traditional bicycle or an electric bike (E-Bike), it's essential to know and follow Ohio laws to keep everyone safe and avoid citations.

Bicycles Are Vehicles Under the Law

According to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), bicycles and E-Bikes are legally defined as vehicles. That means cyclists must obey the same traffic laws as drivers:

- Ride on the right side of the road, as far to the right as is safe and practical.
- Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic signals.
- Yield to other vehicles when required, especially at intersections.

Traffic Safety Update 2025

Commonly Violated Bicycle Traffic Laws

These are the violations most frequently observed by OHPD officers in Ottawa Hills:

ORC Code	Description
4511.20	No person shall operate a vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of others.
4511.202	Must maintain reasonable control of the vehicle (includes bicycles).
4511.43	Must stop at stop signs and yield at intersections when required.
4511.33	Must ride in marked lanes and avoid unsafe lane changes.
4511.56	Required lighting and reflectors for visibility from sunset to sunrise or when visibility is less than 1,000 feet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White front light (visible 500 ft ahead and 300 ft side)• Red rear reflector (visible 100–600 ft)• Flashing or steady red rear light (visible 500 ft)

 **Note:** Failure to follow these laws may result in a citation. Juveniles receiving citations must appear in court.

Electric Bike Classifications & Rules

Electric Bikes (E-Bikes) are categorized into three classes under Ohio law:

Class	Features	Max Speed	Rules
Class 1	Pedal assist only (no throttle)	20 MPH	Allowed on most paths/roads
Class 2	Throttle assist	20 MPH	Allowed on most paths/roads
Class 3	Pedal assist only (no throttle)	28 MPH	NOT for riders under 16 Helmet required

Sidewalk Use

E-Bikes and E-Scooters may only be ridden on sidewalks if the motor is not engaged.


Manufacturer Labels

All E-Bikes manufactured after January 1, 2020 must display a permanently affixed label showing the bike's class and top speed.

Stay Safe - Ride Smart!

Electric bikes offer a fun, eco-friendly way to travel, but they come with responsibilities. Know your equipment, follow traffic laws, and always wear proper safety gear. Let's enjoy our streets without police involvement!

If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact the Ottawa Hills Police Department.

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