

From: [Craig Weinhold](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Items 86124 & 86125: E-Bike speeds
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 4:11:21 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

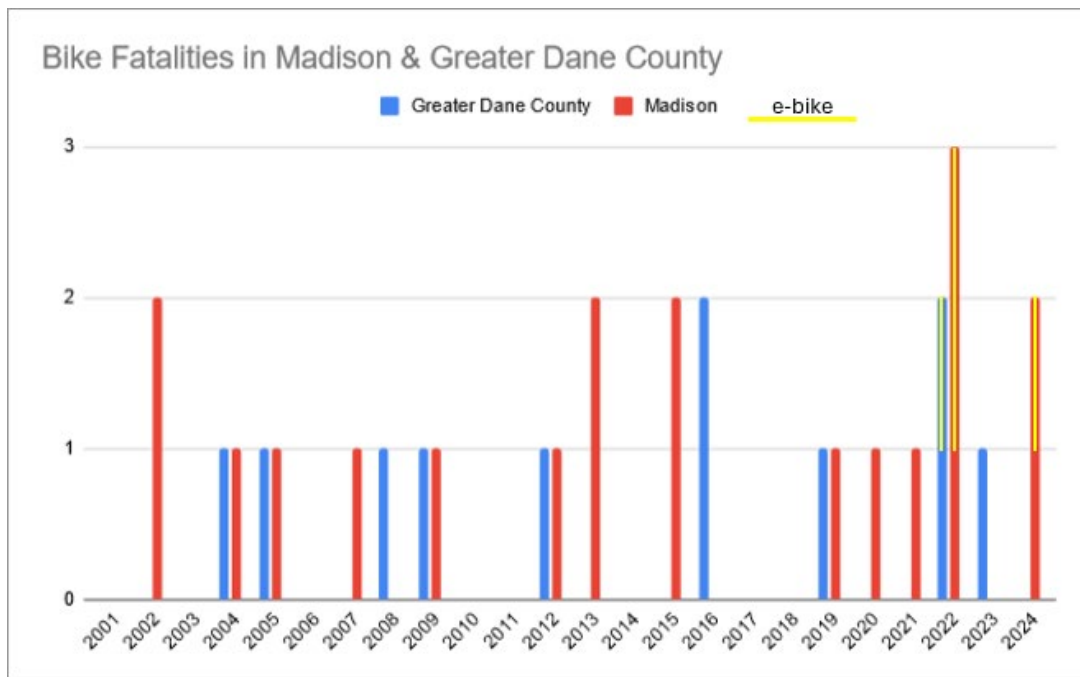
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I would like to see Madison ban class-2 and class-3 e-bikes from sidewalks, paths, and other off-street infrastructure. They would only be allowed in streets and bike lanes.

Some E-BIKE trivia that may be relevant:

- Class-3 e-bikes were originally to be prohibited from paths that aren't adjacent to highways. As Bosch representative Claudia Wasko observed at the time, 28-mph speeds are *"too fast for most bike paths and trails that are often shared with other trail users."*
 - 2 of 18 states that adopted classification before mid-2019 allow class-3 on paths.
 - 16 of 18 states that adopted classification after mid-2019 allow class-3 on paths (Wisconsin was one of the first in this group).

(the bike dealers group behind the e-bike legislation was taken over by e-bike manufacturers in 2019)
- BCycle e-bikes have a top speed of 17 mph to reduce their liability. This is closer to the European e-bikes that have a top speed of 15.4 mph (25 km/h).
- Neighboring states:
 - Michigan allows only class-1 on paths
 - Iowa allows all classes on paths but has a 20 mph speed limit.
 - Wisconsin allows all classes on paths but has a 15 mph speed limit on State trails, such as the Capital City Trail in Fitchburg.
 - Illinois and Minnesota both allow class-3 on paths. Chicago has special rules.
- The federal government has abdicated e-bike regulations to the states. The federal Consumer Product Safety Commission has less than 50 words describing e-bikes (in contrast, they have nearly 10,000 words on bike reflectors!).
- E-bikes were involved in three of the last five Madison bicyclist fatalities. Two were inexperienced riders on throttled class-2 e-bikes of questionable legality.



IMHO, class-2 throttled e-bikes are *THE* big concern for the city.

- They are NOT "*active transportation*"
- They are appealing to people who want a moped / motorcycle alternative. Fat tires, motorcycle-styling, passive ass-back seating, etc.
- They seem disproportionately used by people who have little or no prior bike experience.
- They seem disproportionately to be driven at their maximum speed.

Best regards,

Craig Weinhold