

From: [Addi Faerber](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Ebike comments
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I am committed to the Dane County Food Council meeting at the same time on Wednesday, so I am unable to appear to provide comments in person.

First, congratulations on having a bike friendly community where we have to mindfully make considerations on how to use our shared use pathways! Many communities lack the facilities we have, pushing cyclists onto dangerous roadways and in confrontation with cars.

I am writing as a full time cycle commuter in Madison and also a person with a disability that limits my mobility. I suffered a car on bike collision when I was 10 years old, and from the resulting injuries and corrective surgeries, my legs are more than an inch different in lengths. I adjust my footwear and my bicycles to allow me to get around our community easily while maximizing my low-impact cycle miles and minimizing walking. I have been a full-time cycle commuter in Madison since 2003, riding about 2,500 miles around our community each year. Since 2014, I have also been an ebike rider. My electric bikes made by Specialized and Trek have allowed me to ride on days when I have to get somewhere fast, on days that I am tired and need a little assist, and on days that I can ride across town and arrive looking fresh and not exhausted.

For me, I don't care how people get around, as long as people aren't alone in a gas-powered car. Every other alternative is a win for me. The evidence I have reviewed informs me that, mile-for-mile, the car is the most hazardous way to get around our community, so reducing individuals in private cars makes our community safer. Collisions that don't involve cars (pedestrian vs cyclist, or cyclist vs cyclist) have less harm than collisions involving cars.

As ebikes are growing in popularity and as more ebikes are appearing on our shared use pathways, we need to support new users in learning the etiquette of passing and safe speeds. I had to learn this etiquette in 2014 when I was one of the early ebike riders in our community.

As you're considering policy, etiquette, and signage for our bike paths, please avoid anything that would push any cyclist off the path and into car traffic. This is more dangerous for the cyclist. This will increase the perception in our community that cycling is not safe. Fewer people will ride bikes.

Thank you,
Addi Faerber
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