

**From:** [Burke O'Neal](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** 82194 E-Bike Speeds and Speed Policy on Shared Use Paths  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 4:34:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hello,

I wanted to share my opinions about the agenda item 82194 E-Bike Speeds and Speed Policy on Shared Use Paths, because I probably won't be able to make the meeting. I own Full Spectrum Solar on E. Washington Ave. and bicycle commute to work nearly every day. Over half of our employees bike to work regularly, many of them with e-bikes. I strongly oppose any speed limits or restrictions on what e-bikes are allowed to use the bike paths (other than the state restriction to Level 3 e-bikes). I am very happy to see more people commuting by bicycle due to e-bikes and I am much more worried about motorists going 45+ mph on some stretches of 25 mph road, for example, the outer sections of Milwaukee Ave, or 50+ mph on some stretches of 35 mph road, for example Cottage Grove Road. It is incredibly frightening and certainly more dangerous to take advantage of the "sharrows" on the Milwaukee Ave. bridge, given the speeds motorists hit it, for example, than speeding bicyclists on bike paths. The City doesn't enforce speed limits on roads, why would they have them on bike paths?

I slow way down when a path is crowded and when passing people. I've had way more issues with pedestrians taking over the whole "bike" path, or their dogs or children darting in front of me, etc., than with other bikes. I'm worried about discouraging bike commuting, because of excessive restrictions placed on the paths. I use a level 3 e-bike to make good time on the suburban roads, and then slow way down when I have to ride on bike paths, because it's too dangerous to ride on roads without bike lanes and enforced speed limits, when motorists think we should be on the bike path. If it's too dangerous for pedestrians to be on "bike" paths, perhaps there should be a separate sidewalk for them or separated bike lanes on major roads, like John Nolen. The overall good of the community and world, for that matter, requires effective bicycle commuting.

Before any restrictions are placed, how about signs encouraging slowing down when paths are busy, encouraging people to call out or ring when passing, request the person at least be pedaling? AND signs for pedestrians to stay to the right in a single lane, keep their dogs on leashes, and their kids under control.

Sincerely,

*Burke*

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