

Path & Sidewalk Safety

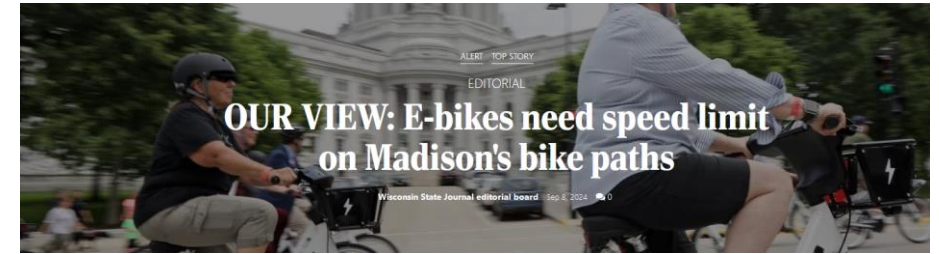
Discussion Items

1. Path Speed Limits
2. Sidewalk Ordinance
3. Other Emerging Concerns

Shared Use Path – Current

1. Default is 25 mph when not posted
2. Current signage encourages people to travel slowly when crowded or to yield to slower
3. Etiquette signs in some areas with larger etiquette message
4. Pop Up Signs, Artwork in Atwood Ave area
5. Share the Path brochure for events

Speed of E-Bikes



Speed is a concern on the paths but is not limited to one type of user

- Complaints come in about e-bike users but also about other bike users
- Recent attention has been focused more on e-bikes as they become more popular
 - Class 3 e-bikes can assist up to 28 mph
 - Some “bikes” being sold are not legal e-bikes in Wisconsin
 - It is possible to “hack” legal e-bikes so they are faster

Electric Bicycle Definition

State of Wisconsin Statute 340.01

Definition – Electric Bicycle

“Electric bicycle” means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and an electric motor of 750 watts or less and that meets the requirements of any of the following classifications:

- (a) Class 1 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (b) Class 2 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle that may be powered solely by the motor and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (c) Class 3 electric bicycle is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

Examples of Speed Limits

Wisconsin DNR Linear Trails: Most (but not all) do allow use of e-bikes while using the electric assist

- E-bikes are limited to 15 mph

Boulder: Multi-Use Paths have 15 mph speed limit

Albuquerque: Max speed limit on trails of 20 mph

- Allows Park Department to set lower speed limits where appropriate, such as in congested areas

Data: 2019 Speed Data

July 23, 2019 - Capital City Path east of Lakeside St

3,458 bikes

- Mean Speed: 13 mph
- 85th Percentile: 15 mph
- 54 traveling over 20 mph
- 1 person at 27-28 mph
- 0 over 28 mph

Sidewalk Ordinance

- City of Madison ordinance permits bicycles to be ridden on a sidewalk except where a building abuts the sidewalk.
 - [Ordinance Link](#)
- City ordinance also allows skateboards to be used on a sidewalk except where a building abuts the sidewalk.
 - [Ordinance Link](#)

Concerns

Conflicts between pedestrians and wheeled users

- Users of wheeled devices traveling too fast
- Not yielding to pedestrians
- Not alerting pedestrians when passing
- Being used where building abuts the sidewalk

Other Emerging Concerns

- **New types of mobility devices**
 - Where can/should they be used?
 - What about e-bikes that are not Class, 1, 2 or 3? Where can they be operated? Do they need license and/or registration?
- **Other Safety Concerns**
 - Nationally growing attention on safety of youth e-bike users as some cities have seen heavy usage by people under 18
 - Large cities in the US and in Europe are seeing high usage of e-bikes for delivery services
 - Overall safety concerns related to e-bike and e-scooter usage

Previous Meeting Discussions

Transportation Commission

- Feb 11, 2024 Meeting – [Link](#)

Transportation Policy & Planning Board

- July 12, 2022 Meeting - [Link](#)