

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

# Oregon E-Bike Laws: Past, Present and Future



Presentation by Rep. Emerson Levy



# What's the Problem to be solved?



## RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD OF MICRO-MOBILITY

- Transportation traditionally since the invention of cars, rail, planes have been a high barrier field with complex regulations and within a short time frame that barrier to entry has changed;
- Micro-mobility offers at a low cost fast ride, in comparison to traditional transportation, especially in the "first mile, last mile space"



# Outdated Laws

IN 1997, THE OREGON LEGISLATURE  
PROVIDED A DEFINITION OF E-BIKES

ORS 801.258 defines an "Electric Assisted Bicycle" as "a vehicle that is designed to be operated on the ground on wheels; has a seat or saddle for use of the rider; is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground; has both fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor; and is equipped with an electric motor that (a) has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts; and (b) is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of greater than 20 miles per hour on level ground"



# Proposal



## UPDATING DEFINITIONS

The IIA changed the definition of e-bikes to a 3 Class System

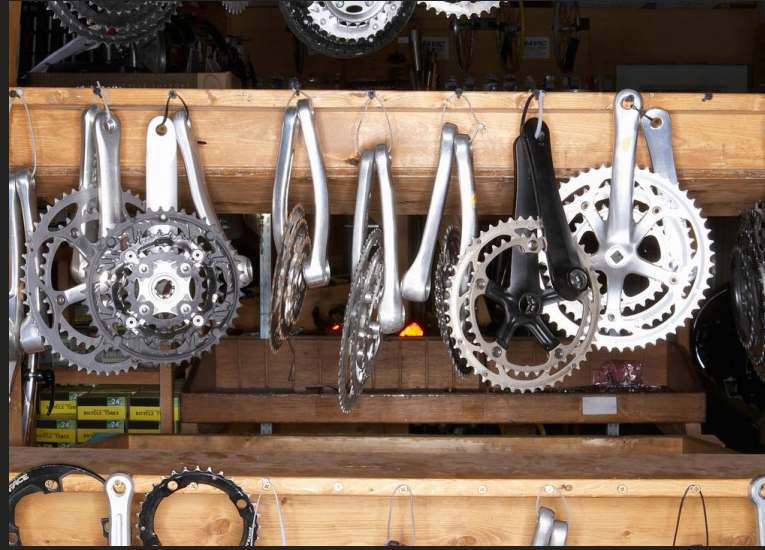
1) A “class 1 electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

2) A “class 2 electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

3) A “class 3 electric bicycle” is a 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, and is equipped with a speedometer



# Youth Ridership Challenges



## CURRENT LAWS

You must be 16 to ride an e-bike, this law is being ignored



## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Safety is the most acute in our middle schools: Bend, Hood River, West Linn and Lake Oswego



## EDUCATION

Bend Schools just added bike safety in the schools through a contract with Commute Options

# Trenton's Law



## UPDATE LAWS

TO INCLUDE THREE CLASS SYSTEM

KIDS UNDER 16 CAN RIDE PEDAL-ASSIST BIKES ONLY.

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THROTTLE-ONLY BIKES

## EDUCATION

INCLUDE GRANT MONEY FOR PROGRAMS LIKE COMMUTE  
OPTIONS

## DEDICATION TO SAFETY

WORKING TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER FOR KIDS AND  
BIKERS, COLLABORATION WITH ODOT FOR DRIVERS TEST  
AND ROAD SAFETY





## **PEDAL ASSIST**

Requires the rider to pedal in order to kick in the assist mechanism



## **THROTTLE ONLY**

Does not require the rider to pedal, functions like a motorcycle





## GOAL

To start the process of modernizing our bike laws and make our streets safe whether your walking, biking, riding or rolling.

