



# CITY OF BEND

February 14, 2024

## LOCATION

710 NW Wall Street  
Downtown Bend

Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street NE, Room  
Salem, Oregon 97301

## MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 431  
Bend, OR 97709

RE: Support for HB 4103 and HB 4067

## PHONE

(541) 388-5505  
Relay Users Dial 7-1-1

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Members of the Committee:

The City of Bend supports both HB 4103 and HB 4067. These two legislative changes support our city’s work to increase safe bike riding for people of all ages and abilities.

Representative Emerson Levy met with our community to listen and identify needed legislative changes that support e-bike safety. Through her outreach efforts, our local working group identified the need to implement three changes to Oregon laws:

## FAX

(541) 385-6676

- Adopt the three e-bike class system (Class 1, 2, and 3),
- Allow students younger than 16 to legally ride Class 1 e-bikes, and
- Limit throttle assisted e-bikes to people aged 16 and older.

## WEB

bendoregon.gov

HB 4103 adopts the emerging standard that categorizes e-bikes into three distinct classes. Most states have already adopted this class system and manufacturers already label their e-bikes with this class system. This consistent classification system makes it easier for our community to follow the rules and for Police to enforce them.

## MAYOR

Melanie Kebler

In recent years, we have seen increases in youth, particularly middle school age, riding e-bikes to school and other places. HB 4103 removes the 16 years old restriction to provide this active transportation option to more youth, and it makes it safer by limiting access to low-speed e-bikes (Class 1 e-bikes). Class 1 e-bikes require pedaling and operate similarly to a non-electric assisted bicycle. The low-speed electric assistance increases the distance riders can travel and increases their ability to track in a straight line as they travel up steep hills. Class 2 e-bikes, however, assist riders in two ways, while pedaling and while using a throttle mode that Class 1 e-bikes do not have. Restricting riders younger than 16 years old to pedal assist only Class 1 e-bikes limits their acceleration rates from a stopped position and simplifies operations.

## MAYOR PRO TEM

Megan Perkins

HB 4067 would create a task force on Electric Micromobility and enable Oregon to convene subject matter experts and communities to continue to improve legislation over the next year.

## CITY COUNCILORS

Anthony Broadman  
Barb Campbell  
Ariel Méndez  
Megan Norris  
Mike Riley

Both these bills will support our community’s efforts to encourage bike riding by lifting the age restriction for Class 1 e-bikes and simplifying enforcement by restricting throttle assisted bikes to those 16 years and older. The bills will also help us meet the state climate friendly mandates by allowing more people more access to e-bikes.

## CITY MANAGER

Eric King



### Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Ashley Bontje at [abontje@bendoregon.gov](mailto:abontje@bendoregon.gov) or 541-388-5505. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

Bend is modernizing its bike infrastructure to increase separation from traffic and create a seamless network of comfortable bikeways. Bend partners with Commute Options to deliver Safe Route to School (SRTS) education and encouragement to students in Bend. Additionally, Bend supplements SRTS education and encouragement with bike riding incentive programs such as an alternative mode commute payroll reward for city staff and e-bike purchase vouchers for low-income community residents. Please support these small but significant changes to help increase travel options, especially for our kids and pass these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'MK', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Melanie Kebler  
City of Bend Mayor