

Submitter: Michael Roberts
On Behalf Of:
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The idea of reducing cars on streets is positive, however, encouraging more electric motor-powered devices that mix with human powered bicycles on paths will reduce public safety, from a personal experience point of view.

These (e-devices) are larger and are faster than human powered bicycles and present a higher risk to pedestrians: More mass, more velocity = more momentum = more potential damage to humans: They are vehicles. Just like cars, there motorized units need insurance as they will damage people and property much easier than a pedestrian or a bicycle can, due to mass and impact capacity. Shifting car needs to bike lanes with motor-powered devices is dangerous and should not be permitted - Use the roadway and demand 1) education to use them, 2) insurance 3) law enforcement.

I personally ride my bicycle to and from downtown every single day, all year long, and am often caught off guard when very quite e-bikes and devices sneak up on me and 2,3x my speed, on hills and pass me or compromise moves to get around thinking that they are faster and more articulate - Human perception is aligned for human powered devices and the roads are designed for faster speeds and larger vehicles.

Often, many e-bikes are passing me without warning, are so quiet and no human effort is used to propel them: This is unsafe to experienced riders and compromises the safety of younger people who may not be confident to ride amongst experienced bicyclist, never mind e-bikes. The winter offers me a recluse from e-bikes while summer brings them out and when danger increases and is concerning.

Please consider legislation that ensure the safest option, not an excuse to leverage e-bikes under the moniker of reducing traffic is advanced.