

Submitter: Richard Karlin
On Behalf Of: My wife Julia and myself
Committee: House Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4007

My wife Julia and I walk the sidewalks and paths of Redmond and neighboring towns daily. We also ride bike on paths here on a pretty regular basis. We have been concerned for at least 5-8 years now about the e-bikes and e-scooters we encounter on our sidewalks and paths. We all the time are dealing with young kids (maybe 10-16 year old kids) on e-bikes or e-scooters darting on and off of the sidewalks and paths at speeds that are way to fast to be safe. These kids are too young and inexperienced to handle these bikes and scooters safely and responsibly. We have witnessed many situations where e-scooters and e-bikes are being driven at excessive speeds and in dangerous ways that have created accidents just waiting to happen. In almost all instances these occupants are not wearing helmets, a very dangerous situation. I don't know the statistics as to how many and the severity of these accidents that are being reported. My guess is that the number of accidents involving e-bikes and e-scooters reported in the last 5 years are alarming and I'm sure are growing at an alarming rate. We need to address this extremely dangerous situation with regulations and strategies aimed at eliminating as much as possible the dangerous environment that these vehicles and occupants are currently creating on our roads, sidewalks, paths, and trails. Please address this situation before way too many people are seriously injured or even killed!

Sincerely, Rick and Julia Karlin