

Submitter:

Debra Gwartney

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4007

Three years ago, I purchased a house near Eugene's treasured bike path. Nearly every day, I take a walk on that path, though more and more I fear for my safety and the safety of my neighbors (close to me: several senior centers whose inhabitants use the path with walkers, wheelchairs, canes, etc). The danger to all of us is out-of-control e-bikes. Especially frightening are the pedalless e-bikes, which race down the path, dodging pedestrians at speeds well above 20 mph. The riders are often dressed in black clothing with black helmets and masks—motorcycle attire and that's what these machines are: motorcycles. E-scooters are just as bad, speeding along, zipping around walkers with little care about alarming us. A few young men on the e-bikes without pedals speed fast enough to do wheelies on the path, engines screeching. It's highly unpleasant and, as I said, often scary. It's only a matter of time until a serious accident occurs. I have written four times to the City of Eugene, mayor and council, as well as the parks department about my concerns, and have not received a response. I believe the reason for that is that the city has no way to enforce unclear rules about the use of e-devices. It is high time—it is downright necessary—to establish rules and to fund enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.