



Flagstaff Biking Organization
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May 21, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council-

We are writing to encourage the Council to embrace e-bikes within the City code on the Flagstaff Urban Trail System and on Flagstaff streets in the least restrictive ways possible.

This new technology has great potential to coax people out of their cars and substantially reduce impacts to transportation infrastructure and the environment. Flagstaff Biking Organization supports the current Arizona State statute's approach to e-bike regulation.

We understand that some people have concerns about interactions on pathways and sidewalks with pedestrians. Frankly these concerns are no different for Class 1 and 2 e-bikes than for analog bicycles. (We do not support e-bikes being allowed on sidewalks.)

These concerns can best be addressed for all bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, by the City taking the responsible and necessary approach to bicycle infrastructure by implementing comprehensive bike facilities. Ultimately it would be best if FUTS trails had separate bike lanes and pedestrian lanes. Additionally, roadways should incorporate cycle tracks and other similar facilities to provide the safest and most encouraging environment for getting more people on to bikes of all kinds.

Until such time that the City chooses to afford these types of amenities, it is best if restrictions on e-bikes, similar to analog bikes, be focused on behavior and not equipment. A fit cyclist can easily out pace a Class 1 or 2 e-bike rider. With either mode, riders should slow to pass pedestrians, abide by traffic control devices, and generally be respectful of other pathway and roadway users. Class 1 and 2 e-bikes should be allowed and encouraged to use the FUTS system, and our community will benefit greatly if they are.

Generally we are concerned that unfounded fears about this new technology will drive regulations that will thwart the adoption and success of this viable and important new addition to the transportation options in the world. Please tread lightly with any new regulations for these bicycles.

Thank you for your consideration-

s/Anthony Quintile

For the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization