



# WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR COMING!

The discussion will start at 6pm





# OUR MISSION & VISION

Whether by bus, by rail, on bike, or on foot, Reconnect Rochester champions transportation choices that enable a more vibrant and equitable community.

We envision a community connected by a robust transportation network that makes it easy for everyone—regardless of physical or economic ability—to get around.



# Why We Do This Work

- SAFETY: Saving lives and reducing harm caused by injuries and fatalities of pedestrians & cyclists
- COMMUNITY HEALTH: Improving personal health and well being by promoting active lifestyles
- ENVIRONMENT: Reducing carbon emissions in transportation sector and the effects of climate change
- SOCIAL EQUITY: Improving resource access and reducing transportation as barrier for people living in poverty
- ECONOMY: Capitalizing on societal economic benefits & personal financial health of reducing car dependency





# We are pro e-bike!

Low speed, legal e-bikes provide clear benefits to New Yorkers:

- Safe, affordable, accessible, electric transportation
- Supports NY's cost-of-living, climate & public health goals
- **Bikes & scooters reduce one's potential to harm others.**





State resources devoted to regulating e-mobility should be proportionate to its safety impact



Street Sharks Explained CUPS  
@gaykwon.bsky.social

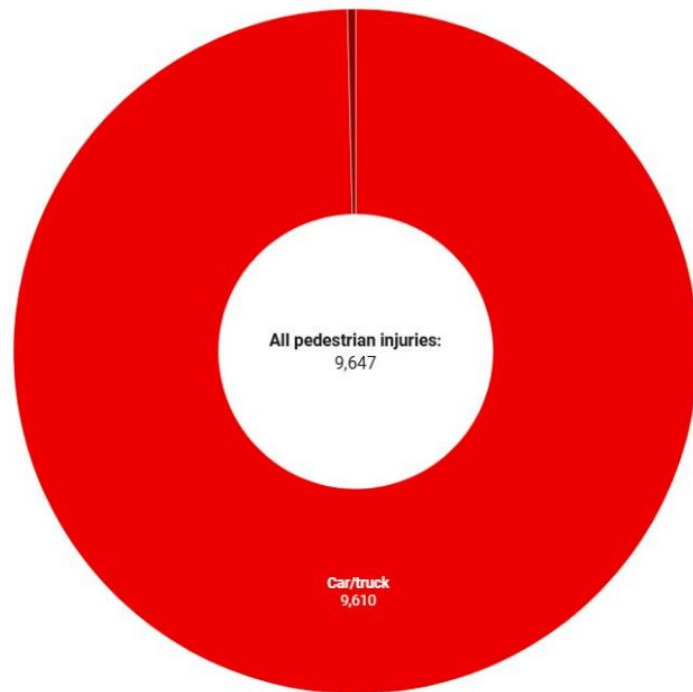


Clear justification for e-bike crackdowns in NY.

### Who's Hurting Whom?

Based on NYPD data for 2024, the clear danger to pedestrians is cars and trucks, which are significantly heavier and faster than e-bikes.

- Car/truck
- E-bike





# The Danger of Battery Fires

- We highly recommend **episode 118** (2024) of *The War on Cars* podcast which dives into the specifics of this issue
- A whole bunch of shotty, subpar batteries from multiple delivery workers' e-bikes plugged into the same outlet in a high rise with crowded living conditions





# The Danger of Battery Fires

## Electric bike started fire in Central NY apartment complex, officials say

Updated: Apr. 26, 2026, 1:45 p.m. | Published: Apr. 26, 2026, 1:15 p.m.



The Utica Fire Department responded to a fire at the Kennedy Plaza Apartments at 2 Kennedy Plaza around 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Utica Fire Department



# BATTERY

**TIPS :** To get the most out of your e-bike battery, it's key to have solid "**battery discipline**".

There are actually a few simple tips to help extend your battery's lifespan.



## BATTERY DISCIPLINE

SMART HABITS = LONGER BATTERY LIFE

### ⚡ TOP-UP CHARGE

**Charge often**

Short, frequent charges are better than deep drains.

### ⚡ ECO MODE

**Reduce strain.**

Eco Mode limits heat and extends battery life.

### ⚡ STORAGE

**With a 30%–60% charge**

Cool, climate-controlled space. Avoid extreme weather.

### ⚡ CHECK CERTIFICATIONS

**Look for safety standards:** UL · ISO · EN

**Know the difference:** Tested ≠ Certified

### ⚡ REDUCE DRAG

**Plan routes** to limit headwinds.

Less resistance = less battery use

### ⚡ KNOW YOUR BATTERY

**Every battery is different.**

Read your e-bike manual for care, charging, and storage.





# Fire prevention

## Certified Battery

Use UL-listed, manufacturer-approved batteries and chargers only.

## Safe Charging Spot

Charge on a hard surface, away from beds, couches, and clutter.

## Inspect Often

Stop using the battery if you notice swelling, heat, damage, or odor.

## No Modifications

Never open, repair, or alter the battery or wiring.

## Handle With Care

Avoid drops, water exposure, and extreme heat or cold.

## Emergency Action

If smoking or overheating occurs: move away and call 911.



## HEAT

E-bike batteries normally produce some heat during use or charging. If the **battery feels extremely hot to the touch**, this may indicate a defect and an increased risk of fire.

## SMELL

A **strong, unusual, or chemical odor** coming from the battery is a warning sign of battery failure.

## NOISE

Failing lithium batteries may **produce hissing, popping, or cracking sounds**.

## SWELLING

A battery that is **bulging, swollen, leaking, or misshapen** is a common sign of failure. If you notice swelling or lumps, **stop using the battery immediately**.

## PERFORMANCE

Batteries that **fail to fully charge** or take **significantly longer than normal to charge** may be deteriorating.

## SMOKE

If your battery or device is **smoking, a fire has already started**. Move away immediately and call 911.



**Avoid charging battery unattended**





### ✓ Safe Charging

- UL-listed charger & original battery
- Hard, non-flammable surface
- Open, ventilated area
- Charging while awake and nearby
- Battery kept clear of exits

### ✗ Unsafe Charging

- Aftermarket or damaged chargers
- Charging on beds, couches, or rugs
- Overnight or unattended charging
- Near flammable materials
- Blocked exits or hallways



# Worldwide Standard: 3 classes

Electric motor, no more than 750 watts

Class 1: **Motor provides assistance only when pedaling** and ceases assistance when the bicycle reaches 20mph

Class 2: **No pedaling *required*, but it has operable pedals.** Throttle activated.

Assistance ceases when the bicycle reaches 20mph

Class 3: **Motor provides assistance only when pedaling** and ceases assistance when the bicycle reaches 28mph (45 km)



# E-Bikes in NYS

- NYS “legalized” (defined & began to regulate) e-scooters & e-bikes in 2020
- It was done in a rushed manner with mostly NYC in mind
- **NYS deviated from the commonly accepted standards**

## The New York Times

Why Electric Scooters and Bikes Are Finally Coming to New York





# The Quirks of NYS E-bike law

- NYS defines class 3 as 25mph, not 28mph
- **Class 3 is only legal in NYC** & riders must have a helmet
- Manufacturer's label providing the class, maximum motor-assisted speed, and motor wattage must be permanently affixed in a prominent location on the bike (\$50 fine possible)
- Bike Shops can't sell an e-bike without that manufacturer's label
- Manufacturers & distributors are supposed to have a process whereby a label for an e-bike purchased BEFORE all this went into effect can be obtained by owner



# The Quirks of NYS E-bike law

- **E-bikes can't be ridden on roads with a speed limit greater than 30mph (*unless there's a dedicated bike facility*)**
- They are prohibited from trails unless the entity that has jurisdiction chooses to allow them (Allowed on Erie Canal Trail, Genesee Riverway Trail)
- People must ride single file on ebikes, whereas people on regular bikes are allowed to be side by side.
- **No person shall operate a class 1 or 2 bicycle with electric assist in excess of 20mph!**
- Must be 16+up to ride an e-bike



# Recent Laws (2024)

# Retailers must:

- Not sell unaccredited or uncertified lithium ion batteries or devices with such batteries
- Provide multilingual operating manuals with lithium-ion batteries or devices with such batteries with storage and charging instructions
- Affix to devices multilingual stickers stating: *“NOTICE: Always yield to pedestrians and follow traffic laws. Riding on the sidewalk may be illegal; consult local laws.”*
- Have red tags on charging cords stating: *“UNPLUG WHEN NOT IN USE”*
-



# Leeway

**NYS provisions grant local governments broad authority to add restrictions or relax some within their boundaries**

No community is forced to accept e-bikes

Any community can ban them entirely or force e-bike riders to have helmets or reflective gear

**E-bikes are banned from sidewalks UNLESS a municipality allows it (Rochester)**



# Good bills in Albany

- **E-bike Access** Repeal the current limit of e-bikes only being allowed on roadways with a speed limit of 30mph or less
- **E-bike Rebate** Reduces cost of e-bikes and allows more users to access active transportation

These have no chance of passing in the current "*E-Bike Menace!*" environment

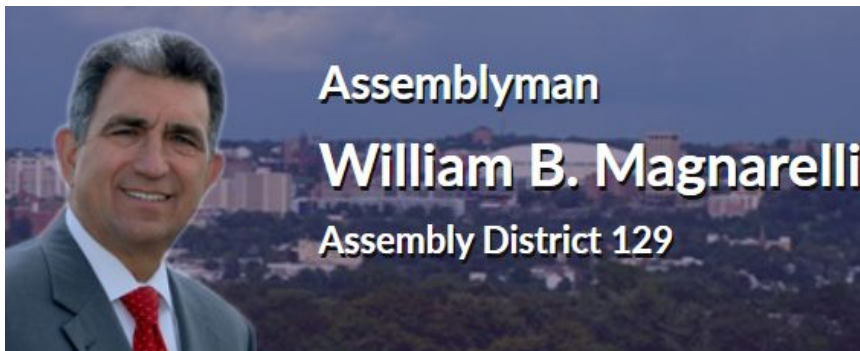


# Albany dynamics



**Transportation Chair in the Assembly**

**Transportation Chair in the Senate**



*“Doing nothing” is not an option  
Magnarelli is considering this term.*





# High Speed E-Motos

- Operable pedals not required  
(**sometimes pedals are just for show** to pass of as an e-bike)
- Motor 1,000-6,000 watts
- 30-65mph
- Throttle only
- No VINS, which would make it possible for the DMV to identify them

September 18, 2025

## The E-Bike Problem is an E-Moto Problem

|By: PeopleForBikes Staff





# E-bikelash LOCAL

**Ogden** Police Chief: E-bikes have become very popular amongst juveniles

Frequent complaints about young people riding e-bikes recklessly

They're seeing serious physical injuries to juvenile kids

Village of **Pittsford** concerns about e-bikes on sidewalks, concerns about e-bikes going faster than 20mph on Canal



# E-bikelash LOCAL - a better way?

## MICROMOBILITY IN CARMEL, IN INFO AND CLASSIFICATION FOR OPERATOR

				
	E-SCOOTER	E-BIKE CLASS 1, 2 & 3	E-MOTO DEVICE <small>Examples: electric motorcycles, electric mopeds, and electric dirt bikes</small>	GOLF CARTS
How it Works	Electric motor, 2-3 wheels, 100 lbs or less, Max speed 20 MPH	CLASS 1: Pedal-assist up to 20 MPH CLASS 2: Throttle + pedal assist up to 20 MPH CLASS 3: Pedal-assist up to 28 MPH	Typically high power (750 W +) motor, Max speed > 20 MPH powered solely by motor	Gas or Electric
Allowed on City Multi-Use Paths (Speed Limit 20 MPH)	✔ YES	✔ YES	✘ NO	✘ NO
Allowed on CCPR Trails/Greenways (Speed Limit 15 MPH)	✘ NO	✔ YES	✘ NO	✘ NO
Allowed on Streets ≤40 MPH	✔ YES	✔ YES	✔ YES* <small>*Must comply with state requirements for motor driven cycles</small>	✘ NO* <small>*Unless otherwise permitted</small>
Allowed in Bike Lanes	✔ YES	✔ YES	✘ NO	✘ NO
Allowed on Sidewalks (Speed Limit 15 MPH)	✔ YES	✔ YES	✘ NO	✘ NO



# E-bikelash NATIONAL

## New Jersey

- Must have drivers license / permit
- E-bike must be registered and insured
- Mandatory helmets for all e-bike riders



# E-bikelash New York State

MANY bills in the Legislature

Eachus / Addabbo bill:

Would require **e-bike registration** with DMV

& have a license plate

New York State Assemblywoman  
**Jenifer Rajkumar**  
is proud to introduce new bills!

**A9092 & A9114**  
**E-Bike Safety**

Requires e-bikes to have  
license plates, insurance,  
and inspections.





# Potential Fixes

## NYS should focus on limiting the sale of higher-speed micromobility devices that are already illegal

- Enact and enforce **point-of-sale regulations** with meaningful fines and seizures to ensure all newly sold devices comply with NY law
- Protect consumers with truth in advertising for e-bikes vs. e-motos
- Expand education for prospective purchasers, and for law enforcement officers.
- Simplify regulations to support economic development and encourage the use of legal e-bikes



## Amazon stops illegal e-bike sales in California following KCRA 3 Investigates request





# Potential Fixes

No bill for this, but it would be great:

Outside of New York City, end municipal control of e-bikes

A patchwork of regulations just creates confusion for everyday riders and a major challenge for tour operators



# **OPEN FLOOR CONVERSATION**

**What are your thoughts and concerns about e-bikes & e-motos?**

**What would you like to see better legislated?**

**What's the role of parents and caregivers in imparting bike safety to children? The role of bike shops?**

NEW YORK

NYBC

BICYCLING COALITION



RECONNECT  
ROCHESTER



# Mobility Action Alerts



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*Stay engaged. Get involved.*



**RECONNECT  
ROCHESTER**

# Become a Supporting Member

We are a member-supported organization



Your financial contribution helps Reconnect Rochester continue to drive change – one street, one mind, and one policy at a time.

[www.ReconnectRochester.org/donate](http://www.ReconnectRochester.org/donate)



# Upcoming Events



Save the date for our 5th ROC 'n Roll on Sunday, May 31st, 2026!