

E-BikeFAQs

Do I need a driver's license? Insurance? Registration?

No, as long as your e-bike meets state regulations for speed(28 mph or less) and motor wattage (750W or less)

May I ride on the sidewalk?

It depends! In Los Angeles bicycles by human power only, no pedal assist or throttle and you must ride with due regard for other persons and property and not in areas prohibited (LAMC 56.15)*

What does my e-bike need?

- Alle-bikes must havefully operative pedals
- Batteries must be UL-certified
- Class 3 requires a helmet for rider no matter their age
- Class 3 requires speedometer
- Certian safety equipment such as headlamps, reflectors and tail lights, go to DMV.CA.GOV for details.

*Other jurisdictions may prohibit.



MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

"to protect and to serve"



e-motorcycles

Not legal on street or sidewalk

- Made for off-highway use
- Has pegs and not pedals
- D.O.T. helmet is required
- Rider is subject to citation or arrest and impound of e-moto (22651(o) CVC)



LAPD Valley Traffic: (818) 644-8000



7870 Nollan Pl
Panorama City CA 91402



Los Angeles Police
Department



Valley Traffic

ELECTRIC BICYCLES 101 IN CALIFORNIA

2026 Update

Prevent a crash with this
crash course on e-bikes



VEHICLE TYPE	VEHICLE			USER				BIKEWAY ACCESS			
	PEDAL OPERATED	MAXIMUM MOTOR-ASSISTED SPEED (MPH)	MINIMUM AGE (YEARS)	DRIVER'S LICENSE	LICENSE PLATE	HELMET	CLASS I BIKE PATH	CLASS II BIKE LANE	CLASS III BIKE ROUTE	CLASS IV PROTECTED LANE	
BICYCLE	YES	N/A	N/A	NO	NO	17 AND UNDER	YES	YES	YES	YES	
CLASS 1 ELECTRIC BICYCLE	YES	20	N/A	NO	NO	17 AND UNDER	YES	YES	YES	YES	
CLASS 2 ELECTRIC BICYCLE	NO	20	N/A	NO	NO	17 AND UNDER	YES	YES	YES	YES	
CLASS 3 ELECTRIC BICYCLE	YES	28	16	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	
MOPEL	NO	N/A	16	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	

“Pocket Bikes” and mini motorcycles are illegal on any roadway

- A pocket bike is a two-wheeled motorized device having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, that is not designed or manufactured for highway use. (407.5(a) CVC)
- A pocket bike shall not be operated on a sidewalk, roadway, or any other part of a highway, or on a bikeway, bicycle path or trail, equestrian trail, hiking or recreational trail, or on public lands open to off-highway motor vehicle use. (21720 CVC).

Classes of e-bikes

- Class 1: Pedal assist only, tops out at 20 mph.
- Class 2: Has a throttle, still 20 mph max.
- Class 3: Pedal assist up to 28 mph - but no throttle.



e-scooters are same but different



E-scooters are two wheels, a motor, handlebars, and a floorboard that you can stand on while riding it.



Must follow all vehicle traffic laws and shall use the bike lane.



E-scooters, max speed is 15 mph. (22411 CVC)

Illegal modifications to increase speed may disqualify a device as an e-scooter or e-bike and be defined as a moped, requiring insurance, registration and a driver's license.

All classes of bikes and e-bikes must obey all traffic laws. (21200 CVC)

2026 Update: AB 875 expands 22651.08 CVC, which authorizes peace officers to remove electric bicycles from the roadway when:

- A person is operating a vehicle with fewer than four wheels that does not meet the definition of an electric bicycle set forth in Section 312.5 VC and is both of the following:
 - (a) Powered by an electric motor capable of exclusively propelling the vehicle in excess of 20 miles per hour on a highway.
 - (b) Being operated by operator who is not licensed to operate the vehicle.
- (2) A person is operating a vehicle that is a Class 3 electric bicycle in violation of subdivision (a) of Section 21213 CVC (a person under 16 years of age shall not operate a Class 3 electric bicycle.)



Mopeds / Motorized bikes

- A motorized bicycle or “moped” has no pedals for human propulsion, may be either electric or gas and is capable of reaching **30 miles per hour** (406 CVC)
- Mopeds require insurance and registration.
- Violation of using an unregistered vehicle on public highway, street, sidewalk, etc. may result in citation (21720CVC) and confiscation (21721CVC).