



City of Glenwood Springs
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PRESS RELEASE

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The City of Glenwood Springs Institutes New Rules for Trail Use

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – Starting August 1, the City of Glenwood Springs will temporarily allow motorized electrical assisted bicycles (e-bikes) on public trails, bike paths, and sidewalks designated as bike paths to increase commuter options during the Grand Avenue Bridge closure. The City will also be enforcing a stricter animal leash law, requiring animals to be on a leash that is no more than six-feet in length whenever utilizing any public, hard surface trail or within the boundaries of Two Rivers Park.

Electric Bikes

Administrative Order 2017-01 temporarily suspends enforcement of Municipal Code Section 090.040.110, as it relates to the use of motorized electrical assisted bicycles on public trails and bike paths. Formerly, all e-bikes were banned from public trails, as they were considered motorized vehicles. In an effort to increase access to alternative transportation options during the Grand Avenue Bridge (GAB) closure, pedal-assisted electric bikes with motors of 750w or less and a top speed of 20mph will be allowed on public trails, sidewalks, and bike paths, throughout the GAB detour. City Council and City Staff will evaluate this rule change at the end of the detour, and will determine the long-term future of the new rule at that point.

Leash Requirement

The upcoming 95-day Grand Avenue Bridge closure will not only impact the amount of congestion on city roads, it will lead to a significant increase in the number of people using the City's trails and sidewalks to get around town. With this increased traffic on trails, the potential for accidents is also increased. Because of this, the City believes that requiring animals to be leashed is in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare. The new rule is contained in Ordinance 2017-15, and can be viewed at <http://www.gwsco.gov/documentcenter/view/2790>.

The City of Glenwood Springs appreciates everyone's patience and cooperation during this trying time for our community.

For more information on the Grand Avenue Bridge closure and detour, visit cogs.us/DetourToolbox.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an e-bike?

According to Colorado State Law, an “electrical assisted bicycle” or “e-bike” is defined as *“a vehicle having two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power.”*

There are three different classes of e-bike:

A **Class 1** e-bike has a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

A **Class 2** e-bike is equipped with a motor that provides assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling but ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty miles per hour.

A **Class 3** e-bike is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.

Only Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes will be allowed on City trails and sidewalks.

Why e-bikes and not scooters, Segways, etc.?

The primary intent of this change is to make bicycling a viable transportation option for individuals with strength or fitness limitations. It may also increase the distance others are willing to bicycle on a daily basis. The goal is to make bicycling accessible to a greater number of people, not encourage motorized use of City trails and sidewalks.

I still don't get it. Why can't I ride my electric scooter?

The Municipal Code prohibits motorized vehicles on City trails and sidewalks. E-bikes that meet the criteria outlined above are now temporarily exempted from the definition of motorized vehicles. Scooters and other motorized vehicles- excluding emergency vehicles, maintenance vehicles and power driven aids or devices used by a disabled person for mobility- remain prohibited.

Can I ride my e-bike on the Rio Grande Trail?

E-bikes are currently permitted only on the portion of the Rio Grande Trail maintained by the City of Glenwood Springs – from Two Rivers Park to 23rd Street. The Trail south of 23rd Street is governed by the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA). RFTA does not currently allow e-bikes but the City has encouraged them to revisit this policy. Visit www.rfta.com for the latest information.

What happens after the Grand Avenue Bridge Detour?

City staff will revisit the question of e-bikes on City trails following the detour and consider adopting a permanent ordinance.

Can e-bikes be parked at public bicycle racks or on sidewalks?

E-bikes are considered bikes and may park wherever standard bikes are allowed.

Do I have to buy an e-bike? Can I just add a motor to my existing bicycle?

E-bike conversion kits are available. E-bike conversions must meet either the Class 1 or Class 2 definitions above to be permitted on City trails.

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www.cogs.us