

A person wearing a blue helmet and a light-colored jacket is riding a white e-bike on a paved path. The path is bordered by green grass on the left and a blue body of water on the right. The background shows a cloudy sky and distant hills. The text "E-bike & Multi-Use Path Taskforce" is overlaid in a large, black, serif font.

E-bike & Multi-Use Path Taskforce

Recommendations to the City Commission

NOTE: Recommendations are from the task force and have not yet been formally evaluated by City Staff for purposes of legality and feasibility.

Taskforce

- The taskforce members include
 - Cary Gottlieb (City Commission)
 - Andrew Tripp (PRAB)
 - Grant Combs (TPAC)
 - Jamie Glenn (PRAB)
 - Lori Hauswirth (PRAB)
 - Barb Owdziej (TPAC)
- We met 14 times between August and December, generally for 2 hours at a time

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E-bike Definitions

- Per state law (MCL 257.13e): An e-bike has a saddle, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor no greater than 750 watts.
 - Class 1: Pedal-assisted, and can go up to 20mph with e-assistance
 - Class 2: Throttle- and pedal-assisted, up to 20mph
 - Class 3: Pedal-assisted, up to 28mph

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Current Regulations - State

- State law (MCL 257.662a)
 - (8) **An individual may operate a class 1 electric bicycle** on a linear trail that has an asphalt, crushed limestone, or similar surface, or a rail trail. A local authority or agency of this state having jurisdiction over a trail described in this subsection **may regulate or prohibit the operation of a class 1 electric bicycle on that trail.**
 - (9) An individual **may operate a class 2 or class 3 electric bicycle** on a linear trail that has an asphalt, crushed limestone, or similar surface, or a rail trail **if authorized by the local authority** or agency of this state having jurisdiction over the trail.

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Current Regulations - Local

- City Code Sec 46-93
 - (a) ... **All motorized vehicles**, including, but not limited to, motorcycles, motor scooters, go-carts, automobiles and all other vehicles powered by other than muscular power, **are prohibited from traveling on such designated non-motorized paths.**
 - (b) **Class 1 electric bicycles**, defined as "equipped with an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that disengages or ceases to function when the electric bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour", as specified by MCL 257.13e(b)(i), **are not considered motorized vehicles for the purpose of this article.**

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Multi-Use Path Map



Gathering Feedback

- Public input was gathered from many different community members and groups (7 local traditional and e-bike shops, SAIL, Firefly, NTN, Queen City Running, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, MSHS Student Council, and Travel Marquette).
- An online survey from the City received over 350 responses. Also, two surveys put out by MAPS received approximately 375 responses.
- We also received feedback from City staff from the Police Department, engineering division, senior center, and the DDA.

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Key Issues Raised by the Citizens

- Lack of path etiquette
- Speed concerns
- Signage & markings
- Congestion hotspots
- Safety risks

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Citizen Suggestions

- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Put in painted center line
 - Widen the path
 - Designate slow zones in congested areas
 - Have better signage
- Regulation and Enforcement
 - Implement a speed limit
 - Create a reckless riding ordinance
 - **Allow all e-bikes**
 - **Ban all e-bikes**
 - Ban e-bikes from all sidewalks
 - Ban e-motos (e-vehicles with large batteries and no pedals)
 - Mandate safety equipment (i.e. bells, helmets), education, and etiquette training.

What **can't** be done?

- Based on research of State law and staff recommendations we **don't** believe the City can implement these things:
 - Speed limit (for now)
 - Mandate shops to give riders/renters etiquette information
 - Bike registration
 - Safety equipment requirements

What **can** be done?

- Based on research of State law and staff recommendations we believe the City **can** implement these things:
 - Open the Multi-Use Pathway to class 1, 2, and/or 3 e-bikes
 - Only allow class 2 e-bikes on MUP for those who need physical accommodations
 - Adopt a reckless riding ordinance
 - Restrict e-bikes on sidewalks
 - Adopt ordinance that mandates local shops give list of pertinent ordinances to renters/buyers
 - Enforce a no texting rule (which is already a State law)

The background image shows four people on bicycles on a paved path. From left to right: a person in a blue shirt and black helmet, a person in a red shirt and white helmet, a person in a blue shirt and blue helmet, and a person in a purple and white shirt and white helmet. They are all looking towards the right. In the background, there is a wooden structure with a triangular roof, possibly a gazebo or a small building, and some trees. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Task Force Recommendations

Guiding principle: The Multi-Use Pathway is for the use of all people. It should be an inclusive and accessible space for all, including people with disabilities.

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Task Force Recommendations – short term Regulations/Ordinances

- Allow class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes on the Multi-Use Pathway
- Allow low speed/low power devices (no greater than 750 watts) on the Multi-Use Pathway.
- Adopt an ordinance banning e-bikes and electric micromobility devices on sidewalks
- Implement a Safe and Prudent Behavior/Reckless Riding Ordinance

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Task Force Recommendations – short term Physical Changes

- Paint a center line on the Multi-Use Pathway throughout its length
- Add signs to the path that can be understood quickly.
- Designate and sign “slow zones” in congested areas.
- Consider additional signage on roadways to alert drivers to bikes on the road (i.e. “Share the Road”)

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Path Etiquette

- All users keep right
 - Give audible warning before passing
 - Pass left with care
 - When stopped move aside
 - Wheels yield to pedestrians
 - Leashed pets only
- Please Be Courteous*



THE PATH IS FOR EVERYBODY



SLOW DOWN

**PASS
CAREFULLY**

**RIDE
SAFELY**



Shared Pathway



Keep left



Warn when
approaching



Move off path
when stopped



Control
your dog

**With great
power comes
great
responsibility**

**Keep your
speed in check**



**Help us keep the
trails safe and
welcoming for all!**
traversetrails.org

Task Force Recommendations – short term Education

- Consider “Share the Road” education for drivers to go with the signage
- Give ‘rules of the road’/etiquette pamphlets to stores that do bike rental or sale
- Continue work with schools to help educate and increase biker safety

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Task Force Recommendations – short term Policy

- Support efforts for the State to codify definitions of micromobility devices, e-motos, and the use of these on Michigan Roadways and Multi-Use Pathways
- Ensure the City allocates the funding for needed tools and capacity to enforce ordinances and educational programs being considered.

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Task Force Recommendations – intermediate term

- Replace some stop signs on the Pathway with yield signs
- Trim back brush and trees to ensure better sightlines
- The City should monitor and quantify the use of the Multi-Use Pathway to guide future development

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Task Force Recommendations – long term

- Support State efforts to implement an “Idaho Stop” rule.
- Widen the Pathway, develop bike only paths, expand bike lanes on roads, create open-roads, establish bike parking areas
- An “Ambassador program” should be considered

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Task Force Final Recommendation

- We recommend the City Commission review the e-bike class use changes, the physical changes, and new ordinances you choose to implement, then assess the impact of those changes **in a year**.

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A person wearing a dark winter jacket, a fur-lined hood, and yellow gloves is walking two huskies on a leash through a snowy landscape. The huskies are black and white. The background shows snow-covered trees and a street lamp. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

Questions?