



UNDERSTANDING E-BIKES, E-SCOOTERS & E-MOTOS



E-BICYCLES

- 1 DO NOT REQUIRE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, INSURANCE, OR REGISTRATION
- 2 UNDER MICHIGAN LAW (MCL 257.13E), AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE MUST:
 - Have fully operable pedals and a seat or saddle
 - Have an electric motor of 750 watts or less
 - Meet the requirements of a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 E-Bike
- 3 WHERE CAN E-BIKES BE OPERATED?
 - Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 E-Bikes are generally permitted on public roadways and bicycle lanes where traditional bikes are allowed
 - When operating on sidewalks, riders must yield the right of way to pedestrians and provide an audible signal before passing (MCL 257.660C)
 - Local ordinances may restrict where bikes may be operated

***Helmets are strongly recommended and Michigan law requires helmets for anyone under 18 years old*

For more information, contact
the Kent County Sheriff's Office
at 616-632-6100 or visit
kentcountymi.gov/894/sheriff

E-SCOOTERS

- 1 E-SCOOTERS, E-SKATEBOARDS, AND ONE-WHEELS DO NOT REQUIRE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, INSURANCE, OR REGISTRATION
- 2 UNDER MICHIGAN LAW (MCL 257.13F) AN E-SCOOTER FALLS UNDER ELECTRIC SKATEBOARD PROVISIONS:
 - Wheeled device with a floorboard for standing
 - No longer than 60" and no wider than 18" and designed for one person or rider
 - Electric motor not exceeding 2,500 watts and top speed of 25 mph on paved surface
 - May be designed to also be powered by human propulsion

***If an e-scooter exceeds these limits, they may be classified as mopeds or motor vehicles, which require registration*

- 3 WHERE CAN E-SCOOTERS BE OPERATED?
 - On roads with posted speed limits of 25 mph or lower; scooters with handlebars may operate on roads up to 45 mph only to cross
 - On sidewalks but riders must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing
 - Full access on bike lanes, but are required to follow the same rules as bikes
 - Shall not be used to carry more than one person at a time (MCL 257.658)
 - Local ordinances may restrict where these may be operated

- 4 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS
 - White light must be visible for at least 500 feet when riding after sunset/before sunrise
 - Rear reflectors, aligned with front lights and controlled stop system required for safe operation

***Helmets are strongly recommended. Riders under 12 cannot ride on public streets or highways; 12-18 must wear crash helmets; 19 and older helmet use optional*

E-MOTOS

- 1 MAY REQUIRE INSURANCE, WILL REQUIRE REGISTRATION & MOPED LICENSE OR OPS/MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT
- 2 UNDER MICHIGAN LAW (MCL 257.32B OR MCL 257.31) AN E-DIRT BIKE/MOTORCYCLE:
Many vehicles marketed as "E-Motos" do not meet Michigan's legal definition of an E-Bike because:
 - Motor output exceeds 750 watts and speeds exceed E-bike limits
 - Lack fully operable pedals and have a motorcycle design and operation

REGISTERED AS MOPED

- Top speed under 30 mph
- No insurance or cycle endorsement
- Moped license or ops required
- Must be 15+ years old
- Registered with SOS & sticker displayed

REGISTERED AS MOTORCYCLE

- Top speed 30+ mph
- Insurance, OPS & cycle endorsement required
- Must be 16+ years old
- Registered with SOS & plate displayed

WHERE CAN THESE OPERATE?

- Not allowed on sidewalks, paths, trails or bike lanes
- Mopeds must ride as far to the right of the road as possible where speed limits are 35 mph or less
- Motorcycles may ride where vehicles are allowed

- 3 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Headlights, taillights, brake lights, horn and mirrors are required. Motorcycles must have a title and carry insurance

***For motorcycles, helmets are required for riders under 21. For mopeds, helmets required for riders under 19.*