E-bike Policy 2024

E-bikes can be a beneficial method of cycling, especially for those who might need a little assistance in riding certain distances, or to climb certain hills. They may allow those who enjoy cycling to participate in group activities, may allow family members who are not as strong to keep up with a stronger family member, and may allow a rider coming back from injury or coping with a disability to enjoy group riding.  The following represents the Barrie Cycling Club policy on e-bikes:

Anyone using an e-bike on club rides must observe the following:

§  An e-bike will only be allowed on a BCC group ride when it is used in pedal assist mode only. **No other types of speed control such as handlebar throttles allowed**.

§  The e-bike must follow the Government of Ontario e-bike specifications (max speed 32 km/h).

§  Those choosing to ride an e-bike need to be fully self-sufficient and ensure that their bike is in good working order (as with all members’ bikes) with particular attention to the specific elements of the electric components such as the battery.

§  Riders are expected to follow the Code of Conduct for E-bikes as well as the main BCC Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct for E-Bikes

§  Members riding e-bikes need to identify themselves and their bike type to the ride leader before the ride begins. This way the leader knows to watch for pacing issues, etc. going into the ride and can react sooner to address related issues when they might occur.

§  During the 2023 season, *e-bikes will only be allowed at first on the Wednesday* “Learn to Group Ride and Wandering Wednesday Social and Recovery Ride”.   Once the ride leader has confirmed that the e-bike rider rides smoothly and confidently within the group, without any unexpected surges that may disrupt other riders, then they will by given a pass to join other group rides.

§  A rider needs to ride within their group riding skill level and accepted group pace level.

§  Riders need to be aware of how their e-bike reacts when the motor kicks in, and should anticipate and control any surges that may happen so that the group is not affected. E-bike riders should leave more than the usual space behind another rider until they are fully comfortable with their e-bike’s motor behaviour.

§  Riding in an appropriate location within the group and communication will be key elements. This is similar to the communication required when riders stand up to pedal or suddenly slow down up a hill. Riders with e-bikes can typically go faster than average riders on a hill so must be vigilant in their positioning and speed control so as not to disrupt the group.