

Batch 5

Comments about E-Bikes for the Parks, Trails,
and Recreation Commission

Received between 12:00pm and 3:00pm
on Thurs., Feb. 11th, 2021

From: [Jacque McIntyre](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: Ebikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 12:09:01 PM

Hi

I would like to keep ebikes off the trails in CHV. So I say a no vote. I know Bicycle Colorado is encouraging a yes vote but most of my encounters on my human powered bike have not been good when people are on ebikes. If you could keep an age limit, like you have to be over 65 years old, I'd be in agreement.

Thanks

Jacque McIntyre
4000 S Dexter St
CHV 80113

From: [Lynn Kelly](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: E bikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 12:46:10 PM

No e-bikes on the highlane canal, please.

From: [Kevin Schwall](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: E-bikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:02:37 PM

Emily,

I understand there is a critical PTRC meeting tonight to consider allowing electric-powered bikes on the Cherry Hills Village Trails. I'm writing to express a strong objection to this idea.

Allowing access to electric motorized bicycles will increase the average cycling speed on our trails. This will increase the speed difference between walkers, horses, and cyclists, which in turn can only lead to an increase in frequency and severity of collisions. While some traditional cyclists do currently traverse our trails at high speeds, their numbers are limited to those with the fitness and energy to do so. Further, these tend to be more practiced and skilled riders who are more likely to be capable of controlling their bicycle and avoiding a potential collision. E-bikes remove this skill/practice hurdle, so only the twist or squeeze of a throttle is necessary to attain dangerous speeds. Allowing use of these vehicles on our trails will create a need for speed limits, and then a need for limit enforcement, which I understand is impeded not only by a lack of manpower but also by a gap in our current regulations. This isn't a problem our town needs.

Allowing e-bikes on the trails seems to be a solution without a problem. I cannot imagine anyone objecting to use of electric mobility scooters, wheelchairs, or low-speed assistance devices when needed by our disabled citizens, so increasing access to the trails is hardly a valid argument. We all would benefit from more exercise, so removing the need to walk or pedal yourself to some of our quieter and more beautiful spots is hardly an improvement for the common good.

Cherry Hills Village is fortunate to have a tremendous number of safe and beautiful roads which are freely accessible to e-bikes, so exclusion from our trail system is not much of a burden. Preserving our trails as a safe refuge from these vehicles is the prudent approach at this time. Once permission is given, we know it is much harder to take away. As other locales experiment with adding e-bikes to the mix, a body of safety research will develop. With this, and as our regulations mature to allow proper governance and enforcement, then perhaps the town owes our e-bike users the duty of reconsidering this again someday. For now there is no reason for Cherry Hills Village to be on the vanguard of this experiment. Please keep e-bikes off our trails.

Thank you,

Kevin Schwall
5240 Nassau Cir E

From: [Carol Breeze](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: Ebikes and horses don't mix
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:05:46 PM

CHV trails are unique because we mix people, pets, horse and bicycles. Adding e-bikes adds the risk of high-speed injuries, smashed dogs and terrified horses to the trails. Basically it ends the ability to use the trails for riding horses. Motorized vehicles should not be allowed on multi-use trails. They are designed for roads and paved walkways.

Carol Breeze

From: [Jan Pilcher](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: E bikes on the canal path
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:09:18 PM

No E-bikes please! The foot paths have already been torn up so much by bicyclists, Especially around Blackmer Lake. These are faster and incompatible with the nblarge amount of food traffic we are now experiencing and all the Highline Canal trails.

Thank you for addressing this issue.
Jan Pilcher

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gordon Rockafellow](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: E Bikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:18:07 PM

Hi Emily,

This email is to state the Rockafellow's position regarding E bikes. We believe they should remain banned, with an exception made for electric wheelchairs and carts and tricycles operated by senior citizens.

Thank you compiling all these emails.

Nancy and Gordon Rockafellow

From: [Rebecca Benes](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: e-Bikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:20:39 PM

I am opposed to e-bikes on the Highline Canal.
No Motorized vehicles are allowed now, and should not be allowed. Last week I was nearly mowed down by an e-bike as I took my daily walk on the highline.
Rebecca Benes

From: ktbrennan200@aol.com
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: e bikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:44:35 PM

Weekends on trails are crowded and dangerous. E bikes do not belong on trails especially on weekends.
Katie Brennan

From: [Suzie Todd](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: eBike Support/Cherry Hills Village PTRC
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:58:33 PM

Good evening Councilmembers,

My name is Suzie Todd, I live at 3182 S Gaylord St , Englewood, CO 80113, and I'd like to voice my support for changing parks ordinances to allow eBikes on trails. As someone who rides my eBike regularly on Park Trails to stay healthy, I was surprised to find out that Cherry Hills Village currently doesn't allow me to ride legally, even while Colorado law does. I bought an eBike last spring at the start of the pandemic and I have since discovered what a positive difference it has made in my life. I have encouraged others to do the same and many have! It feels good, too, to help get one less car on the road!

I am hopeful that these ordinances can be changed to allow all of us who enjoy our eBikes the ability to ride them on the trails for our own health and to help move Colorado forward to cleaner air.

Thank you for reading.

Suzie Todd

From: corinnejb@aol.com
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: ebikes on the trails
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:13:35 PM

PLEASE prohibit these. They do not belong on our trail system.

Thanks,
Corinne Joy Brown

From: [Kathy Farrell](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: Ebikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:22:12 PM

I am an eBike owner and have been for the past four years. I am 63 years old, healthy, and I would be very sorry if eBikes were prohibited from using the Highline Canal. While I can ride a 'regular' bike, my eBike allows me to venture further afield, a source of great delight that I can ride from Cherry Hills Village to Chatfield Reservoir, or downtown Denver, and home. I am grateful to not be only relegated to riding on the streets, which are either busy with automobile traffic and/or without bike lanes. To travel on Belleview safely, I ride on the sidewalk which has garnered glares from the walkers I try most carefully to slowly steer around.

I imagine the antipathy to eBikes is either from a bad experience with an eBike rider passing someone too fast, or from a misunderstanding of what an eBike is.

I would propose that a 15 mph speed limit, such as what is mandated along the Platte River trail, together with requiring that only bikes which are "battery-assist," (which means they must be human powered, i.e., if the rider stops pedaling, the bike does not go), would be allowed on the Highline Canal. Pedal-assist bikes do NOT run by an engine, nor is there any noise beyond what a non-eBike makes. The popularity of eBikes is significant and growing. Regulation of eBikes, rather than elimination, would be the wiser course of action for a fast-growing segment of the population.

I have contributed significantly to both the Cherry Hills Land Preserve for many years, as well as more recent contributions to the Highline Canal Conservancy. I consider myself a friend and supporter to both, and hope that both organizations would not eliminate an entire class of people and open space supporters who choose to responsibly ride their eBikes.

Finally, I would note that it is not the eBikes that are the issue; but rather, how they are ridden. I still cannot erase the memory of the man who sped past me on his non-eBike road bike, rudely yelling at me as he went past, "EBikes aren't allowed on the Highline Canal!" I didn't even have my battery engaged. ./

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Farrell

Sent from my iPad

From: [Laura](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: Ebikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:40:37 PM

Dear Emily,

I'm writing in response to ebikes on CHV trails. I am supportive of ebikes on the Highline Canal. I have reservations/do not feel as supportive about any bikes on the bridal trails throughout the Village without further information on additional costs for trail maintenance and/or proposed speed limits.

Thanks,
Laura Paul
720-800-6563

Sent from my iPhone

From: [E Schmidt](#)
To: [Emily Black](#)
Subject: PTRC letter of opposition to the use of e-bikes
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:50:38 PM

Erik Schmidt
19 Cherry Ln Dr, Englewood, CO 80113

February 11, 2021

Parks and Trails Commission
Cherry Hills Village

Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the use of e-bikes on the Village trail system. There is precedent to the restriction of the use of e-bikes in other communities and CHV can be instructed by the previous research and debate.

My primary concern is safety and regulation. Today the Village enjoys largely unrestricted enjoyment of the trails and the introduction of e-bikes, given their speed capability for riders of any ability, will inevitably lead to more accidents and regulation in the form of speed limits, lanes, etc. There is precedent for this in other parks for bicycles as well as e-bikes. Not to mention that two weeks ago I saw an e-bike pass a vehicle on Quincy.

Please place e-bikes in the class of any other motorized vehicle and restrict them from the trail system.

Best regards,
Erik Schmidt