

## Batch 6

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

Received after 3:00pm  
on Thurs., Feb. 11th, 2021

February 11, 2021

Cherry Hill Village Parks & Trail Committee Members  
Cherry Village City Council Members  
Cherry Hills Village Mayor

RE: ebikes and eVehicles on CHV Trails

Dear Mr. Mayor, Council Members, Committee Members & Neighbors:

In determining whether there is a place for eVehicles on CHV trails, understanding relative vehicle speeds is of value:

**Non-Motorized Speeds:**

Typical Walker	3-4 mph
Typical Runner	6 – 8.5 mph
Typical Bike Rider	6 – 20 (for highly experienced biker) mph
Trotting Horse	8 mph

**Motorized Vehicles**

eBike <1000 w	20 mph + pedal power
<b>eBike 1000 w</b>	<b>32 mph + pedal power</b>
<b>eBike 3000 w</b>	<b>50 mph + pedal power</b>
<b>Moped 50 cc</b>	<b>28 mph</b>
Scooter 50-250 cc	Approx. 40 mph (less if rider is heavy)
eSkateboard	6 – 13 mph

Looking at the above numbers, some alarming questions arise:

1. How does CHV reconcile having eBikes with potential speeds of speed of 50 mph on the same trail as a person walking slowly with children in a stroller?
2. How will CHV be able to distinguish between different eBikes and their relative speeds?
3. How will CHV deal with the evolving technology of eBikes, which seem to be trending faster for commuting and road use? What if eBikes evolve to 70 mph?
4. If eBikes are permitted, why not permit Mopeds or dirt bikes? Where are the boundaries?

A survey performed by the National Institute for Transportation and Communities reported that:

- 28% of eBike owners bought eBikes to replace car trips
- 12.6% of owners bought eBikes to avoid traffic
- Based on these numbers, 40% of eBike owners are potential commuters using their bikes to avoid car usage.

With the number of new apartments, condos and office building going up around CHV, our trails are already seeing the congestion. As these building fill, so will traffic and trail usage increase. One only needs to look at other trails along the front range that permit eBikes to see where this is headed. We could end up with painted, traffic lines down the middle of the Highline and on our other trails. Look at the Cherry Creek Trail, where police have had difficulty controlling speeds. The result has been some serious accidents and a trail that is no longer user friendly. The bottom line is eBikes going 25 – 50 mph not mix with walkers, runners, horses and strollers.

Most CHV residents know that normal bikes can be a problem at times on the trails. I regularly encounter bikers: failing to yield, riding too closely to people and to strollers, using walkers and horses as slaloms poles, scaring people who are moving slowly, and causing people to hump out of the way. If this is happening with bikes that normally go between 6-20 mph, how would this be managed with eBikes?

I view Our CHV trails as **sacred**. This is one of the reasons I am a founding member of the Highline Canal Conservancy, and this is the primary reason that we decided to move here 20 years ago. I average 10 times per week on our trails and have seen it all. If we allow eVehicles, the writing is on the walls: our trails will drastically change.

If we allow eBikes, why not allow eSkateboard and Mopeds? eBikes are here to stay as members of the Council discussed at the last meeting. This does not mean they are appropriate for our trails, as motorcycles and cars are not appropriate. Because eBikes are a fixture, so will human nature prevail by making them faster.

Personally, I have witnessed multiple scares with eBikes and with other motorized vehicles on the highline including:

1. Older individuals (> 70) using eBikes are regularly found on the Highline. Twice now, I have seen older individuals, with their motors engaged, forcing people to jump out of the way or risk being run over.
2. On a horse, I encountered 3 dirt bikes zooming down the trail coming towards me. This put both the riders and myself at significant risk.
3. On several occasions, I have witnessed individuals on eSkateborads using walkers, strollers and horseback riders as slalom poles weaving in out as if they were on a downhill race course.
4. Out walking, I encountered a family of 5 on motorized scooters playing follow the leader down the trail.

For anyone who has ever managed others or who has run companies or similar organizations, we know that it is easy to enact a new rule, but it is almost impossible to revoke a privilege. If CHV were to allow eBikes or any eVehicles, **there is no going back.**

I strongly and passionately urge the Council to honor and respect our trails by keeping usage as it is. Whether other communities have different rules, should not be our concern. After all, do we really want lanes and speed limit signs on the Highline?

Most respectfully,

Shari Leigh

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**From:** [Bill Rothacker](#)  
**To:** [Emily Black](#)  
**Subject:** PTRC February 11 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:50:58 PM

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Commissioners:

I live at 18 Cherry Lane Drive. I have lived in Cherry Hills for more than 30 years. I am very opposed to changing our current rules pertaining to mechanized vehicles on our trails. I have been struck from behind by a scooter while walking on a sidewalk in Denver because I did not move quickly enough for the rider. I want to preserve the quiet and relative safety of our trails for those of us who don't move as quickly as we used to. Again keep our trails as they are. Thank you.

William Rothacker  
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**From:** [Hoffman, Tamara](#)  
**To:** [Emily Black](#)  
**Subject:** E-Bikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 4:11:37 PM

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No, no, no E-bikes on the Highline!! Ever!!

Is that clear enough??

Tamara

**From:** [Richard Baggus](#)  
**To:** [Emily Black](#)  
**Subject:** E-Bikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 4:14:17 PM

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At 73 years old I'm thinking maybe e-bikes don't sound too bad of an idea. As a community we will likely be moving in the direction of e-bikes as a means of locomotion with a lower environmental impact (relative to cars and motorcycles). But, there is the probability that with time e-bikes will themselves become more powerful with a potential for increased speed.

So if you do propose to allow e-bikes, they would need to be regulated to a certain extent on power and speed with that being inherent to the bikes. In other words, it is not speed signs that regulate but qualities in the bikes that self regulate the bike - such as a motor that produces a limited amount of power with an attendant limited amount of speed - regardless of the size of the operator. On the softer ground appropriate tires might help to decrease soil erosion. Perhaps only some of the trails could be for bikes, bikes and persons, and persons only.

Yikes!

Good luck.

**From:** [Craig Sargent](#)  
**To:** [Emily Black](#)  
**Subject:** Ebikes on CHV trails  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:21:51 PM

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Hi Emily,

I live on a property in CHV that has trails on two sides of it and a street in front of our house and a street behind. In our neighborhood we have 11 children under the age of 7 and two more under the age of 12 who walk and ride bikes up and down the street daily. There is already too much traffic in our neighborhood as people use both the street in front and the street behind our house to access the highline canal even though those streets are not designated parking lots for highline access. Allowing ebikes would undoubtedly increase traffic not only on these streets but also on the trails. This is very concerning to us and to our neighbors. Allowing e-bikes would add to an already dangerous situation with cyclists who are already going too fast on The High Line and on the trails. Also, allowing e-bikes would be potentially the next step towards allowing other motorized vehicles. On behalf of my wife and I who have two grandchildren under the age of 2 who visit multiple times each week and are frequently on the trails bordering our property, and on behalf of the neighbors that I've talked to, we strongly object to the approval of e-bikes on CVH trails.

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**From:** [Lynne G Mason](#)  
**To:** [Emily Black](#)  
**Subject:** E-bikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 9:06:09 PM

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I think I missed the deadline. I oppose the e-bikes. Please keep the trail quiet, calm and safe. There is no need for e-bikes. Please please no motorized vehicles. I love that horses can be on that trail.

Thank you.

Lynne Mason.