

E-Bike & Multi-Use Path Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 9th, 2025

5:30 PM

City Hall

Call to Order: 5:32 PM

Roll Call: Andrew Tripp (AT, PRAB), Barb Owdziej (BO, TPAC), Jamie Glenn (JG, PRAB), Cary Gottlieb (CG, City Commissioner), Grant Combs (GC, TPAC)

City Representatives: Kyle Whitney (KW, City Clerk), Captain James Finkbeiner (JF, Marquette PD)

Approval of the Agenda: BO motioned, JG approved. Approved unanimously.

Announcements: none

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approve the minutes of the September 25, 2025 meeting:** JG motioned, BO approved. Approved unanimously.
2. **Weekly Discussion Topics**
 - a. **Marquette Area Public Schools** (Senior Elle Debolt and Junior Eleanor Stevenson, members of Student Council/MAPS Student School Board, and Blythe Raikko, Advisor and MAPS Employee)
 - i. Ms. Debolt and Ms. Stevenson, along with their advisor, Blythe Raikko, conducted two surveys amongst the Marquette Senior High School student population.
 - ii. The first was given in September; some advisory instructors completed this as a class, others sent it individually in September.
 - iii. The second was given on October 7th to be completed individually in students' advisory classes. There were 301

participants (slightly less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the student population); 82 (27.24%) reported using an e-bike.

- iv. A handout was distributed to all members with survey results.

b. MAPS School Resource Officer (Officer King, Marquette PD)

- i. Officer King brought up the following possibilities:
 - 1. Having an informational seminar for e-bike use
 - a. No extra cost as it is during working hours
 - b. Limited to MAPS
 - 2. E-bike registration for students
 - a. Implementation would be left to MAPS
 - b. Might be pushback from administration and/or parents.
- ii. For improper e-bike behavior, Officer King states that they can currently do the following:
 - 1. Stop for traffic violations on public roads
 - 2. Stop for careless/reckless driving on school property; certain criteria must be met.
 - 3. Stopping to talk about road safety
- iii. The following cannot or is not done:
 - 1. Impounding e-bikes is not possible, unlike skateboards
 - 2. Tickets are generally not issued to students during the school year. A few tickets were issued on the multi-use path during the summer.
- iv. Officer King states that he thinks education (at elementary, middle, and high schools) in the fall and spring is the most effective solution to ensure students are adhering to traffic laws and following multi-use path etiquette.

- v. When asked by CG, Officer King stated he thinks the biggest problems on the multi-use path are users texting while riding and excessive speed.

Discussion on standing items

- **Categories/topics for possible inclusion in final recommendation**
 - The EBTF committee continued discussions about the categorization of suggested changes. See Appendix A.
- **Upcoming meetings**
 - October 16th: MQT Bike Rental
 - October 23rd: Marquette DDA

Public Comment

None.

Comments from Board/Committee Members & comments from staff

- AT was impressed by the work of the MAPS Student Council. The rest of the committee agreed.
- BO was also impressed by Officer King's presentation and commitment to helping MAPS students.

Adjournment: 7:25 PM

Appendix Documents

- Appendix A: Topics for Discussion
- Appendix B: MSHS E-Bike Student Report

Topics for Discussion

Possible Ordinances

- Reasonable accommodation form?
- Bike registration
- Speed limits
- Safe and prudent behavior/reckless riding ordinance
- Allowed class/vehicles
 - E-bike class restrictions (or lack thereof)
 - Other vehicle types
 - Wattage limit
 - Crankshaft requirement
- Safety equipment/helmet law
- Sidewalk usage
- "Idaho stop"
- Leash laws including length
- Cell phone usage

Physical Changes

- Center line on the multi-use path
- Widening the path
- Painted signs on the path (slow zones, etc.)
- Obstruction/overgrowth management
- New bike-only paths
- Expanded bike lanes
- One-way streets/reversions

Education

- Required "rules of the road"/etiquette for e-bike rentals
- Partnering with schools

Signage

- Trailhead?
- Consistency (ex. speed sign near welcome center)
- Type of signage
 - Road signs for motor vehicles/driver info
 - Etiquette
 - Yield signs > stop signs?
- Design/accessibility standards
- Location

Internal/Policy

- Data gathering/sorting

Enforcement

Safety

- Mandated safety courses

Sidewalks



MSHS E-Bike Student Report



Date: 10/09/25 Time: 5:30pm

Location: Marquette City Hall

Prepared By: Elle DeBolt & Eleanor Stevenson

Problem: The City of Marquette has experienced a very significant increase in e-Bike activity within a short period of time. The relatively low cost and ease of operation make e-Bikes a great transportation option for many (including students). Unintended consequences of increased e-bike traffic have resulted in dangers to operators, pedestrians, animals, and cars.

Context & Explanation of Methods:

09/09-09/12: Marquette Senior High School Advisory classes were asked to give feedback (as a class) using the first survey form between Tuesday, September 9th and Friday, September 12th. (Some teachers did one collective survey as a class and others had students do it individually).

10/07: Advisory Classes were asked to have all students fill out the second survey. This survey had 301 participants, roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ of MSHS, and the results are in the table below.

Total Student Responses: 301	Yes	No
Do you personally use an E-bike?	82 or 27.24%	218 or 72.42%
Have you ever had a negative experience involving an e-bike? <i>These situations could include times you were on an e-bike or times you encountered an e-bike as a pedestrian, runner, driver of a vehicle etc.</i>	111 or 36.87%	190 or 63.12%
If you do use an E-bike, do you ride on the road or on the multi-use path? *Note: this question was added after x amount of students had submitted the survey.	On the road: 30 or 42.25%	On the multi-use path: 41 or 57.75%



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Synthesis of Student Feedback

“Have you ever had a negative experience involving an e-bike? These situations could include times you were on an e-bike or times you encountered an e-bike as a pedestrian, runner, driver of a vehicle etc. If yes, please explain the experience here.”

Take-aways from student responses include:

- Many have been in situations where they either almost got in an accident or actually did get into an accident, some major, with an E-bike.
- Lack of road awareness and knowledge among ebike users are viewed as likely causes.
- High speeds, disregard of traffic laws, failure to signal, and simply lack of attention to their surroundings were all common concerns.
- People are also noticing an increased amount of users not wearing helmets and riding recklessly (wheelies, multiple people on the bike, etc.).
- Expressed frustration with being unfairly put into a category of e-bikers that do not follow the rules.

“If you do use an E-bike, what are some of the positive aspects of it?”:

Take-aways from student responses include:

- Many live in the townships surrounding Marquette or do not have a drivers license. In both of these situations, ebikes are a great solution.
- Ebikes allow students to not need to rely on their parents for rides to practice, school, or work. Several stated that without an ebike, they would not be able to get to these places.
- Specific experiences where they are unable to ride a pedal bike, making ebikes a much better option for them compared to walking or another form of transportation.
- Ebikes encourage social activity, are better for the environment and allow teens to experience independence and responsibility at a young age.

“If you DO NOT use an E-bike, what are your thoughts on E-bike usage in Marquette?”:

Take-aways from student responses include:

- The opinions from non-ebike users are highly mixed.
- Ebikes are convenient and useful, especially for teens and elders. A good alternative to driving and make it easier to get around town.
- Ebikes should be allowed on both roads and bike paths.
- Major safety concern, especially when used by younger kids.
- **Clearly communicated and enforced speed limits, licenses, clearer rules and age restrictions as suggestions to fix these issues.**
- **Consensus is that e-bikes aren't going away anytime soon. We need consistent and clear rules and also education to protect both riders and members of the community.**



MSHS E-Bike Student Report



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Actionable Steps:

Proposed Solution:	Purpose:	How:
Establishing and enforcing a speed limit on the Multi-Use Path, requiring a bell/signaling of approach, and banning throttled e-bikes from the path.	Reduces accidents between pedestrians and reckless riders	Use speed radars, signs, have some MPD Officers patrolling on E-bikes, and do occasional enforcement blitzes (similar to parking tickets)
Path and Infrastructure Design and Updating	Create physical separation and clearer guidance to reduce conflict and confusion	• Paint center lines on the existing Multi-Use Path to create directional flow and separation of pedestrians vs bikers • Add more declared bike lanes on roads (like Third St.) • Improve signage • Improve clearances along the existing path and limit "blind spots" or high-collision areas by cutting back brush similar to how roads are maintained. • Widen the existing path in order to create multiple lanes
Class taught by MPD	Informs students about traffic laws and the dangers of e-bikes	MPD goes to Bothwell (+ surrounding schools?) and holds a small group class/lesson about bike safety and traffic laws.

We welcome the opportunity to continue this conversation. Please contact MSHS Student Council Advisor: Blythe Raikko: braikko@mapsnet.org 906.250.3879 Thank you for your time.