

e-bike Buyers Guide

Having an e-bike makes everyday trips easy!
Use this guide to learn why and how to pick
the right e-bike for you.



What is an e-bike?

An electric bike, also known as an e-bike, is a bike with a boost! On most e-bikes, an electric motor gives you an extra push when you pedal.

But isn't riding an electric bike cheating? Nope! People who ride e-bikes typically ride farther and more often than people on regular bikes.



If you have feedback on any facet of your e-bike experience in Santa Monica, we'd love to hear it!

Contact us at info@GoSaMoTMO.org



Why do I need an e-bike?

Riding a bike is a great way to save money, avoid traffic, and take control over your commute. E-bikes make it even easier with an electric boost everytime you pedal.

Save Money

Add up the cost of a car payment, parking, gas and insurance and you have a pretty hefty sum of money. For a fraction of that cost you could be riding an e-bike.

Avoid Traffic

Santa Monica has miles of green bike lanes that let you skip by traffic.

Stay Healthy

Compared to driving, you still get plenty of exercise when riding an e-bike (plus it's a bunch more fun).

Go Green

Reduce your emissions and carbon footprint. Get around on electricity and pedal power.

How far do e-bikes go?

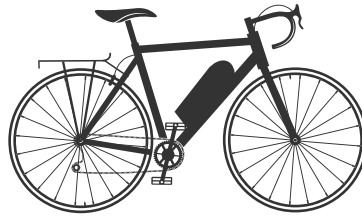
The range of an e-bike varies based on the bike's battery size, weight, hills, and how much pedal assist or throttle you choose.

Other things to consider

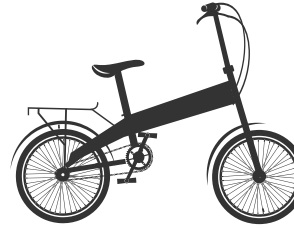
There are other things that you should think about when considering an e-bike:

- Do you want the battery to be removable or built into the bike?
- Do you want a large, heavy battery or do you prefer a lighter, cheaper e-bike?
- Where will you store and charge the bike? Do you have to get the e-bike upstairs?

COMMUTING



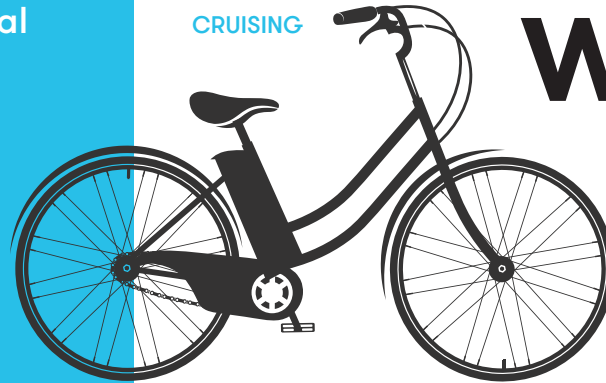
FOLDING



CARGO



CRUISING



Which e-bike is right for me?

Types of e-bikes

When buying an e-bike, consider how you plan to use it and the storage space you have available:

- **Folding** - Taking your bike on the train? Not enough room to store a bike in your apartment? Consider a Folding e-bike!
- **Cargo** - Doing grocery runs? Carrying kids around town? Consider a Cargo e-bike! You can borrow and try one for free through the City's Family Cargo Bike Library.
- **Cruiser** - Primarily riding for fun or leisure? Not worried about speed? Consider a Cruiser e-bike!
- **Commuting** - Heading to work? Try a Commuter e-bike!

E-bike Classifications

In California e-bikes are classified into three categories that regulate where they can and can't be ridden. **Class I e-bikes** are perfect for most people. They provide electric assistance to get you going up to 20mph. You can go faster than that, but you'll have to do it via your own pedal power!

Class II e-bikes have the same 20mph limit, but these bikes have a throttle, so you don't have to pedal if you don't want to.

Class III e-bikes provide pedal assistance up to 28mph, require a helmet to operate, and are not allowed on some bike paths.

Other Regulations

E-bike use on off-street trails is regulated by the trail's owners. Be sure to check ahead before riding on a new trail.

- **Beaches** - Class I and II e-bikes are allowed on the City's Beach Bike Path but Class III e-bikes are not.
- **State parks** - E-bikes are regulated on a park by park basis.
- **Federal parks** - E-bikes are allowed wherever other motorized vehicles are allowed.

Cost

Electric bikes run the gamut from questionably cheap to unbelievably expensive (although still much more affordable than owning a car). On the cheaper end, you can get a decent e-bike for around \$1,200. On the high end, premium feature-packed e-bikes can cost over \$6,000. These bikes have features like anti-theft systems, GPS integrations, and components built into the frame.

Can I try an e-bike in advance?

You can borrow an e-bike for free from the City of Santa Monica for multiple days through the **Family Cargo Bike Library Program** or through the Bike Center's **Commuter Bike Loan Program**.



Lyft e-bike Share

Available at 80 docking stations throughout the City of Santa Monica, the Lyft hybrid e-bike is a fun, affordable way to get around town. They're available in the Lyft app. It costs \$1 to unlock and 34 cents per minute. For more info, visit <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/santa-monica-ca>

Family Cargo Bike Library

The City of Santa Monica has launched an electric-assist family cargo bike loaner program. The program allows families at eligible schools to borrow a family cargo bike for a one-week trial period for free.

- **Requirements:** Secure overnight parking, signed participant waiver, credit card for deposit
- **Contact:** Ron Durgin at the Bike Center, (310) 656-8500 or email info@thebikecenter.com
- **For more info, visit thebikecenter.com/family-ecargo-bike-program**

Commuter Bike Loan Program

The Commuter Bike Loan Program, operated by the Santa Monica Bike Center, aims to increase the number of people who commute by bicycle to work or school. For two weeks, the Bike Center will furnish you with everything you need in order to begin commuting by bike, free of charge!

The Bike Center will give you all the equipment and support you need to get comfortable transitioning to bicycling. When your two week trial is up, you'll know whether or not commuting by bike is for you (spoiler alert: it is!).

The free two week trial includes a fully equipped commuter bike (you can request electric assist).

Buy Local

- **Helen's Cycles** - (310) 829-1836
2501 Broadway, Santa Monica, CA 90404
www.helenscycles.com
- **Bike Attack Electric** - (424) 744-8148
2904 Main St, Santa Monica, CA 90405
www.electricbikeattack.com
- **Santa Monica Bike Center** - (310) 656-8500
1555 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401
www.thebikecenter.com
- **Cynergy Cycles** - (310) 857-1500
2300 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90404
www.specializedsantamonica.com
- **Giant Santa Monica** - (310) 399-6200
2411 Main St, Santa Monica, CA 90405
- **The Bike Shop Santa Monica** - (310) 581-8014
2400 Main St, Santa Monica, CA 90405
www.bikeshopsantamonica.com
- **Veloworx** - (310) 584-9797
3106 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405
www.veloworx.com
- **Bicycle Workshop** - (310) 450-3180
1638 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405
- **REI Bike Shop** - (310) 458-4370
402 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90401
www.rei.com/stores/santa-monica/bike-shop

Where can I get an e-bike?

Here in Santa Monica, most of the many bike shops carry e-bikes. Check out their website, give them a call, or visit to see their full selection of options.

If you are in need of a traditional bicycle and cannot afford one, check out Santa Monica Spoke's Local Bike Match Program at SMSpoke.org

You can also find plenty of options online. Make sure you know how the bike is shipped to you. You might be able to assemble it yourself or need to have it sent to your local bike shop.

Need more options? These are just some of the many e-bike manufacturers out there:

- Rad Power Bikes
- Specialized
- Juiced
- Electra
- Pure
- Propella

What's on the market?

Examples of e-bikes*

Priority Embark



www.prioritybicycles.com

Blix Vika+



www.blixbike.com

Rad Power RadWagon



www.radpowerbikes.com

Aventon Pace 350



www.aventon.com

Brompton Original



us.brompton.com

Babboe City-E



www.babboecargobike.com

Commuter e-bike

Average Price Range

\$1,200

\$4,000+

Folding e-bike

Average Price Range

\$1,400

\$4,000+

Cargo e-bike

Average Price Range

\$1,700

\$10,000+

*Price ranges and model availability subject to change