

Frequently Asked Questions

E-bikes on Mackinac Island

Updated: May 18, 2026

In April 2026, the City of Mackinac Island passed [new legislation](#) related to e-bikes (e-cycles) and their licensing process. Check out the answers below to some of the most common questions related to this topic.

Q: Can I use an electric cycle on Mackinac Island?

A: Only if you are a qualified person with a mobility disability and only if the e-cycle is a Class I e-bicycle or a three-wheeled Class I tricycle or Class II e-tricycle.

Reference: [City of Mackinac Island Ordinance 639, Section 66-167 of Code of Ordinances](#)

Q: How do you define a “qualified person with a mobility disability”?

A: According to Section 66-167 of the Mackinac Island Code of Ordinances, a qualified person with a mobility disability is an individual who has a physical impairment that substantially limits the ability of the individual to safely pedal a bicycle; and despite the person’s physical limitations, he or she is capable of safely operating an electric assist cycle. Section 66-167 includes some examples of what can constitute a mobility disability.

Reference: [City of Mackinac Island Ordinance 639, Section 66-167 of Code of Ordinances](#)

Q: Are representatives of the City of Mackinac Island allowed to ask me personal questions about my disability?

A: No. However, you must obtain a license prior to using an electric cycle on Mackinac Island, which requires you to provide “credible assurance” that the mobility device is required because of a mobility disability. Such credible assurance may be demonstrated by providing a valid state-issued disability parking placard or card; a state-issued proof of disability; or a statement from a medical provider confirming that the electric cycle is required because of a disability.

Reference: [City of Mackinac Island Ordinance 639, Section 66-167 of Code of Ordinances](#)

Q: What's an electric cycle? What kinds of e-cycles are allowed on Mackinac Island?

A: As defined in the [City of Mackinac Island's ordinance](#), an electric cycle includes both two-wheeled bicycles and three-wheeled tricycles that satisfy all of the elements of the definition of "Class 1 electric bicycle" contained in Section 13e of the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.13e(b)(i), and three-wheeled tricycles that satisfy all of the elements of the definition of "Class 2 electric bicycle" contained in Section 13e of the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.13e(b)(ii).

A Class I electric cycle:

- An electric motor of not more than 750 watts
- Limited to a top speed of 20 miles per hour
- The electric motor must only engage when the rider is pedaling.

A Class II electric cycle:

- An electric motor of not more than 750 watts
- The motor propels the cycle at a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour regardless of whether the rider is pedaling.
- The motor disengages when the brakes are applied.

If the bike is capable of speeds of over 20 miles per hour, that e-cycle is not allowed on the island.

Each electric cycle must have a label affixed somewhere on the bike that denotes whether it is a Class I, Class II or Class III electric bike.

If an e-cycle does not have such a label affixed to it, a person must prove that the e-cycle meets the definition of a Class I e-cycle or Class II e-tricycle or that it has been permanently modified to meet that definition. Class III e-cycles are not allowed on the Island under any circumstances.

Reference: [Electric Bicycle: State of Michigan Definition and Classification System](#)

Q: How do I get a license to use my e-cycle on Mackinac Island?

A: (*Preferred method*) Qualified persons with a mobility disability can submit their application and required documentation to the Mackinac Island Police Department (MIPD) via email e-bikes@mipd.org or mail, PO Box 118, Mackinac Island, MI 49757 at least two weeks before their arrival to the island.

Here's a summary of required paperwork:

1. Mobility Disability Accommodation Application - including required photos
2. Credible Assurance, could include:
 - a. Valid state-issued disability parking placard or
 - b. Card or a state-issued proof of disability or
 - c. A statement from a medical provider or
 - d. Other form of assurance
3. If no credible assurance is possible, visitors can submit a notarized Affidavit of Mobility Disability.

Once MIPD has received the required documentation, they will review materials and issue an approval or denial. If approved, visitors need to present their approval at the ferry docks in person and pay for an e-cycle pass to bring their e-cycle on the ferry.

(*Back-up method*) If there isn't time to submit the required documents prior to visiting the island, qualified persons with a mobility disability can submit their documents in person at the Mackinac Island Police Department, 7374 Market Street, Monday - Friday, during posted licensing hours. E-cycles in this category will be tagged at the ferry docks and won't be considered legal until they have been presented to the MIPD office during posted licensing hours.

Noncompliant e-cycles are subject to impoundment, and their users and/or owners are subject to a \$110 civil infraction citation with second and subsequent violations within two years rising to \$210 and \$500, respectively.

Reference: [City of Mackinac Island Ordinance 639, Section 66-167 of Code of Ordinances](#)

Q: Someone in my party has a mobility disability and has a license to use an e-cycle during our visit to the island. Can I qualify for an e-cycle license to assist the member of my party?

A: No, not unless you also have a mobility disability, complete the required application and provide credible assurance documentation or a notarized affidavit.

Q: I understand that motor vehicles are banned from Mackinac Island, but my e-bike is not technically a motor vehicle, is it?

A: [Mackinac Island City Ordinance Section 66-31](#) provides that an electric bicycle or tricycle is considered a “motor vehicle” unless it meets the definitions and requirements of Mackinac Island City Ordinance 66-167.

While Michigan’s Motor Vehicle Code excludes e-cycles from the definition of “motor vehicles,” (MCL 257.33) the State code also provides that “an individual shall not operate an electric bicycle within a city that prohibits the use of nonemergency motor vehicles, unless the city council of that city, by majority vote, adopts a resolution allowing the operation of electric bicycles within city limits.”

Reference: [Motor Vehicles on Mackinac Island: Definitions: 66-31](#)

Q: I have a mobility disability but I have a Class II, two-wheeled E-Bike. Can I use my E-Bike on Mackinac Island even though only Class I E-Bikes are permitted?

A: If your two-wheeled Class II e-bike has been permanently modified to now meet the definition of a two-wheeled Class I e-bike then yes, it can be used by a qualified person with a mobility disability once they have gone through the licensing process.

Noncompliant e-cycles are subject to impoundment, and their users and/or owners are subject to a \$110 civil infraction citation with second and subsequent violations within two years rising to \$210 and \$500, respectively.

Reference: [City of Mackinac Island Ordinance 639, Section 66-167 of Code of Ordinances](#)

Q: I’m not able to see my doctor for a note before visiting. Can I still bring my e-bike?

A: A doctor’s note is just one form of acceptable credible assurance. If you aren’t able to see your doctor prior to your visit, you could submit any of the following:

- a. Valid state-issued disability parking placard or
- b. Card or a state-issued proof of disability or
- c. Other form of assurance

If no credible assurance is possible, visitors can submit their Application for Mobility Disability Accommodation and a notarized Affidavit Mobility Disability in person at the Mackinac Island Police Department, 7374 Market Street, Monday - Friday, during posted licensing hours.

E-cycles in this category will be tagged at the ferry docks and won’t be considered legal until they have been presented to the MIPD office during its business hours.