



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

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STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Open Space and Trails Department: Michael Wurzel, Resource Specialist; Brian Lorch, Director
FOR: April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting
SUBJECT: Resolution to amend the definition of a Motor Vehicle in the Recpath Rules and Regulations to allow Class 1 Electric Assisted Bicycles (e-bikes) on the Recpath

DEFINITIONS:

Class 1 e-bike: **bike** equipped with an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 mph.

BACKGROUND: On August 9, 2017 Colorado House Bill 17-1151 took effect, concerning the regulation of e-bikes. HB 17-1151 authorizes the operation of Class 1 or 2 e-bikes on bike or pedestrian paths where bicycles are authorized to travel in Colorado. However, HB 17-1151 also stipulates that local authorities are not prevented from authorizing or prohibiting the use of e-bikes with respect to their jurisdiction.

After the change in law, the BOCC received numerous comments both for and against the idea of changing our current regulations to allow e-bikes on the Recpath. During a December 12, 2017 BOCC Work Session about e-bike policy, the BOCC supported an Open Space staff recommendation to undertake a public outreach process. During winter of 2018, Open Space staff conducted a public outreach process about e-bikes use on the Recpath using the following strategies to gather public, focus group, and stakeholder input. The public outreach process included an online survey and project website (www.summitcountyco.gov/ebikes), a community open house, and many meetings with Focus Group, OSAC, BOSAC, and local and regional government partners.

During an April 24, 2018 BOCC Work Session, Open Space staff presented to the BOCC and discussed the feedback they had received through the public comment process, which concluded March 19, 2017. Having carefully considered all the community **comment**, the BOCC advised Open Space staff to move forward with a proposal to the U.S. Forest Service to permit e-bike use on the Recpath, which would require an update to the county's Operations Plan and an amendment to the county Recpath Rules and Regulations.

On March 4, 2019, at the joint USFS/Summit County monthly meeting, the USFS indicated to county management that they had approved their proposal to permit Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on the Recpath.

CONSIDERATIONS: During a March 26, 2019 Work Session, the BOCC considered input on e-bikes from public outreach process, OSAC, BOSAC, SPORT, towns, and staff. The BOCC advised staff to revise the definition of a Motor Vehicle in the Recpath Rules and Regulations, which would allow class 1 e-bikes ONLY on the Recpath.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the BOCC read and adopt the attached amendment resolution to revise and amend the definition of a Motor Vehicle in the Summit County

Recreational Pathway Regulations to permit Class 1, but not Class 2, 3, or unclassified electric assisted bicycles, on the Recpath.

Cc: Bentley Henderson, Jim Curnutte, and Jeff Huntley