e-MICROMOBILITY IN MARYLAND

Micromobility and Who Rides

Micromobility is a term for small, low-speed vehicles that are often powered by humans. E-micromobility refers to electric-powered devices, including electric-bicycles and electric scooters. Advances in e-micromobility have expanded active transportation in Maryland beyond traditional walking and biking, with e-micromobility devices commonly seen on college campuses, in use by people who are swapping traditional bikes for e-bikes to travel further, and delivery workers who depend on micromobility for their work and livelihood.

Micromobility usage is quickly growing throughout Maryland, and the continued evolution of micromobility devices, including shared micromobility programs (e.g., bikeshare & scooter share), have prompted jurisdictions in Maryland to tackle new questions around mobility, policy, and equity. Shared micromobility devices are available throughout the DC and Baltimore regions via Bikeshare and Dockless Scooter share systems and are used by a wide range of demographics, including low-income users benefiting from the **Capital Bikeshare for All** and **Baltimore City Dockless Vehicle** required access plans. Tourism locations from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland have reported visitors operating rented micromobility, ranging from e-bikes to Segways and Golf Carts. In 2025, the largest shared systems in the state set ridership records: Capital Bikeshare, which serves DC, Maryland, and Virginia communities, recorded over 6.3 million trips and Baltimore City Dockless Vehicles surpassed three million trips, in addition to countless trips made on personally owned micromobility devices.

Maryland's Requirements for Micromobility

For the most common types, e-scooters and e-bikes, riders and those sharing the road should follow the laws summarized below and available at **lookalivemd.org/laws**. In parks, on sidewalks, and in shared spaces, micromobility users should yield to pedestrians and ride defensively around larger motor vehicles. ***See Table 1 for a breakdown of micromobility types and their restrictions.***

Micromobility rider responsibilities:

- Obey all signs and signals
- Yield to pedestrians
- Equip vehicles with lights
- Riders under age 16 must wear helmets
- Park vehicles at racks or in a way that does not impede public facilities or sidewalks (leave 4 ft.)

Motor vehicle responsibilities:

- Only pass when it's safe to do so, and give at least 3 feet when passing
- When turning, yield to pedestrians and micromobility users
- Observe caution when opening car doors for passing micromobility users

For specific requirements, see Transportation Article ("TA") of the Maryland Code.

Where to Ride

Many forms of e-micromobility are legal to be ridden on roadways and on sidewalks unless locally restricted *(see Table 1 for restrictions)*. Micromobility should be ridden in bicycle facilities where present or on the right side of roadways as practical. They are not allowed on controlled-access highways, including toll roads. Tampering with a vehicle can make it illegal for roadway use.

In most Maryland state parks, only class 1 e-bikes are allowed, but users should check park regulations in advance. Local park rules may differ. Both MTA and WMATA allow bicycles, e-bicycles, and scooters on all transit vehicles, when the designated spaces are not already full. Personally owned e-bikes and e-scooters weighing less than 50 lbs are allowed, but no gas-powered vehicles are allowed on transit vehicles. Learn more **HERE**.

Maintaining e-Micromobility and Battery Safety

One of the most important aspects of micromobility safety is proper vehicle care. Vehicles should be taken to certified mechanics for servicing and maintenance. Users should take additional precautions for e-micromobility:

- **Battery safety:** Battery fires can be avoided by using the vehicle's original charger, safely storing the vehicle and battery, and regularly inspecting for damage. Find a full list of recommendations **HERE**.
- **Modifications:** Tampering with speed limiters on micromobility devices is dangerous and illegal. Doing so voids any warranties, makes the vehicle illegal for public roadways use, and risks the rider's personal safety.

Table 1: Common Types of Micromobility

Vehicle Characteristics	Requirements and Restrictions
Bicycle §11–104 Manual powered pedal bike, with 2 or three wheels and a rear drive train.	• Permitted on sidewalk unless prohibited by local ordinance • May not ride on roadway with a speed limit over 50 mph • May not carry passenger unless it is designed for and equipped with a seat for each passenger • Must be equipped with brakes and lights in low visibility
E-Bike §11–117.1 All e-bikes must be operable using pedals without the e-assist. **Class 1** – bicycle with a motor of 750 watts or less, e-assist when pedaling; 20 mph max assist	• Bicycle requirements and restrictions apply
Class 2 – bicycle with a motor of 750 watts or less, e-assist throttle which functions without pedaling; 20 mph max assist	• Bicycle requirements and restrictions apply • Restricted use in state parks
Class 3 – bicycle with a motor of 750 watts or less, e-assist when pedaling; 28 mph max assist	• Bicycle requirements and restrictions apply • Restricted use in state parks
Scooter § 11-154.1 **and E-Scooter** §11–117.2 Two wheeled device with handlebars which is designed to be stood on by the operator; 20 mph max.	• Bicycle requirements and restrictions apply
Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD) TA § 21-101 Includes Segways and hoverboards; Non-tandem wheels; self-balancing; 15 mph max.	• Must ride on the sidewalk where present • May not ride on any roadway with a speed limit over 30 mph
Low Speed Vehicle §11–130.1 Four wheeled electric vehicle; 20-25 mph max.	• Requires title, insurance, and license to operate • May not ride on roadway with a speed limit over 30 mph
Golf Carts §21–104.2 Four wheeled vehicle; 20 mph max.	• Illegal on state roadways, may cross state roadways at intersections
Mopeds §11–134.1 Can be operated by pedals, low powered (1.5 horsepower max); 30 mph max. Moped does not include an electric bicycle.	• Requires title, insurance, and license to operate • Cannot be ridden without protective gear • May not ride on roadway with a speed limit over 50 mph
Motor Scooters §11–134.1 Non pedaled, seated vehicle with motor and automatic transmission; 30 mph max.	• Requires title, insurance, and license to operate • Cannot be ridden without protective gear • May not ride on roadway with a speed limit over 50 mph • May not carry passenger unless designed for and equipped with a seat for each passenger
Minibikes and Dirt Bikes §11–134.4 Motor vehicle with two-three wheels, not subject to registration under Title 13 of TA.	• Illegal on state roadways, retailer is responsible for telling purchasers this information
Please note the above information is a summary advisory and should not be taken as legal advice. *For specific requirements and restrictions, see Transportation Article ("TA") of the Maryland Code.*	