

Your Safety

What are the common dangers associated with e-micromobility vehicles? And what types of crashes are most common?

Common risks include distracted riding, interactions with motor vehicles, uneven pavement, sudden obstacles, and low-visibility conditions. Frequent crash types include loss of balance, intersection conflicts, and dooring incidents from parked cars.

What is MDOT doing to make e-micromobility safer?

MDOT is educating Marylanders about safe micromobility use and supporting safer streets through complete streets design, which improves conditions for all road users, including e-micromobility vehicles and riders. Campaigns are underway to educate people about legal vehicles and riding safely. For example, MDOT staff gives presentations to educate people about legal vehicles and riding safely and funds educational programming through grants.

How do I report a crash involving e-micromobility vehicles?

- Life-threatening emergencies: Call 911.
- Accidents, Incidents and unsafe local roads: Call 311 or Use 311 App

To report an unsafe road or hazard to the Maryland State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), use their online Customer Service Request form or call 301-513-7300 or 410-582-5650.



Contact Information



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Email

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For more information and additional frequently asked questions, scan the QR code below or visit: www.mdot.maryland.gov/micromobility.



Your Quick Guide Starts Here!

e-Micromobility in Maryland

Navigating Micromobility
With Confidence

mdot.maryland.gov/micromobility





The Basics

- **Micromobility** refers to small, low-speed vehicles typically powered by human effort, such as bicycles, and the emerging subset of electric powered small vehicles.
- **E-micromobility** refers to the subset of electric or battery-powered versions of these vehicles, including electric bicycles and electric scooters.
- **E-moto vehicles** refer to electric or batterypowered motorized vehicles with more powerful motors that exceed 750 Watts and/or that allow for assisted speeds over 28 mph, such as electric motorcycles, mopeds and dirt bikes. These are not considered micromobility vehicles.

For vehicle regulation information with legal references, please see the Micromobility Regulation Overview posted on the mdot.maryland.gov/micromobility webpage.

The Facts

How are e-bikes, e-scooters, and other small vehicles classified under Maryland law?

- E-bikes, e-scooters, and other small micromobility vehicles are not treated as motor vehicles in Maryland. They follow the same rules of the road as bicycles, which means riders must obey all traffic signs and signals and share space responsibly with others. You do not need a driver's license, vehicle registration, or insurance to ride these devices, but you do need to ride predictably, stay alert, and follow the law to keep yourself and others safe.

Some small vehicles that look like e-bikes but have larger motors or can travel faster than 28 mph are classified as mopeds or low speed vehicles. These vehicles require registration and are commonly referred to as e-motos.

Where am I allowed to ride e-micromobility vehicles? Sidewalks? Bike lanes? In the road?

- Legal e-micromobility vehicles can be ridden on bicycle lanes, trails, roadways, and sidewalks unless locally restricted. Ideally, micromobility vehicles should be ridden in bike lanes or on trails where available, or on the right side of roadways as practical. Use sidewalks only when the roadway isn't safe to ride or when traveling slowly with someone who needs the sidewalk, like a child or older adult.

Tip: Some parks and schools have specific restrictions for e-micromobility, so always check before you go.

What traffic rules should I follow?

- Micromobility riders should follow the same traffic rules as people on bicycles. If you are not familiar with bike rules, a simple guideline is to ride in the direction of traffic and follow all signs and signals.

How can I be safe while riding?

To ride safely, stay alert, avoid distractions, never ride while impaired, and remember that each device is meant for one rider only. Stay aware of your surroundings and watch for hazards like potholes, debris, or other obstacles in the roadway.

Tip: Helmets are required for riders under 16 and recommended for everyone. All e-moto riders must wear a helmet.

How can I ride safely around pedestrians?

- Pedestrians always have the right-of-way, and they may not expect to see you coming. Ride predictably, use clear signals, slow down in crowded areas, give an audible warning when passing, and keep a safe distance from others.

Tip: Match your speed to the environment—roughly 15 mph on trails, and closer to 8–10 mph where people are walking.

How should drivers interact with e-micromobility vehicles?

- Drivers should check blind spots, use caution when turning or opening doors, give at least 3 feet when passing, and stay patient. Drivers should respect designated bike lanes and never drive or park in them.

How should riders interact with drivers?

- Riders should use front and rear lights, wear bright or reflective clothing, and avoid riding in drivers' blind spots. When passing parked cars, stay at least 3 feet away to avoid the "door zone"—the space next to a parked car where an opening car door can hit a rider.