

New York City Department of Transportation

Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rules

What are we proposing? This proposed rule would amend sections 4-01 and 4-06 of Chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York (“34 RCNY”) to add speed restrictions for people operating bicycles with electric assist (“e-bikes”), electric scooters, or pedal-assist commercial bicycles on NYC streets.

When and where is the hearing? The New York City Department of Transportation (“DOT”) will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule online. The public hearing will take place on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 10AM.

Join through Internet:

- To join the hearing via your browser, either click on the following URL link or copy and paste it into your browser’s address bar.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96083258689?pwd=LHebeqZBLzcOxqpJSOiB8PNLVn7bld.1>

Meeting ID: 960 8325 8689

Passcode: 893825

- Then follow the prompts.
- If you have low bandwidth or inconsistent Internet connection, we suggest you use the “Call-in” option for the hearing.

Join via phone only:

- To join the meeting only by phone, use the following information to connect:

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 960 8325 8689

Passcode: 893825

How do I comment on the proposed rules? Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by:

- **Website.** You can submit comments to DOT through the NYC rules website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us>.
- **Email.** You can email comments to rules@dot.nyc.gov.
- **Mail.** You can mail comments to the Division of Legal Affairs, New York City Department of Transportation, 55 Water Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10041.

- **Fax.** You can fax comments to (212) 839-7188.
- **By speaking at the hearing.** Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rule at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by emailing rules@dot.nyc.gov by July 11, 2025 and including your name and affiliation. While you will be given an opportunity during the hearing to indicate that you would like to provide comments, we prefer that you sign up in advance. You can speak for up to three minutes. Please note that the hearing is for accepting oral testimony only and is not held in a “Question and Answer” format.

Is there a deadline to submit written comments? The deadline for written comments is 5 p.m. on July 14, 2025.

Do you need assistance to participate in the hearing? You must tell the DOT Office of the General Counsel if you need a reasonable accommodation of a disability during the hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by e-mailing at rules@dot.nyc.gov. If you wish to receive a reasonable accommodation, you must do so by July 7, 2025.

Can I review the comments made on the proposed rules? You can review the comments made online on the proposed rules by going to the website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/>. Copies of all comments submitted online, copies of all written comments, and a recording of the hearing may be requested by emailing rules@dot.nyc.gov.

What authorizes DOT to make this rule? Section 2903(a) of the New York City Charter (City Charter) authorizes DOT to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule was not included in DOT’s regulatory agenda because it was not contemplated at the time the agenda was published.

Where can I find DOT’s rules? DOT’s rules are in Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York.

What rules govern the rulemaking process? DOT must meet the requirements of Section 1043 of the City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Section 1043(b) of the City Charter.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Proposed Rule

The Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation (“DOT”) is authorized to promulgate rules regarding traffic operations in the city pursuant to Section 2903(a) of the New York City Charter. The rule that DOT is seeking to amend is contained within Chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York (“Traffic Rules”).

The proposed rule amends Sections 4-01 and 4-06 of the Traffic Rules to impose a speed limit for e-bikes, electric scooters, and pedal-assist commercial bicycles to align with the existing speed limit for electric scooters in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (“VTL”), and to ensure speed limits are applied consistently across all e-mobility devices.

Section 1282 of the VTL prohibits the operation of electric scooters, as defined in Section 114(e) of the VTL, at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour. The proposed rule would incorporate this existing speed restriction for electric scooters into the Traffic Rules. Additionally, in order to apply consistent standards of operation to all e-mobility devices, DOT proposes to prohibit operating e-bikes and pedal-assist commercial bicycles at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour. The proposed rule would thus change the speed limit for e-bikes and pedal-assist commercial bicycles from 25 miles per hour to 15 miles per hour. The current speed limit of 25 miles per hour for human powered devices would remain unchanged. Human powered devices would not be subject to this lower speed limit because they are lighter devices compared to e-devices, which are heavier due to their motor and battery.

Specifically, the proposed amendments would be as follows:

- Section 4-01(b) (“Words & Phrases Defined”) is amended by adding definitions of “bicycle with electric assist” and “electric scooter”; and
- Section 4-06 is amended by adding a new paragraph (b) prohibiting a person from operating a bicycle with electric assist, an electric scooter, or a pedal-assist commercial bicycle in excess of 15 miles per hour.

New material is underlined.

Section 1. Subdivision (b) of section 4-01 of chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding definitions for the terms “bicycle with electric assist” and “electric scooter” in alphabetical order to read as follows:

“Bicycle with electric assist” shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 102-c of the vehicle and traffic law.

“Electric scooter” shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 114-e of the vehicle and traffic law.

§ 2. Section 4-06 of chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding a new subdivision (b) to read as follows:

(b) *Maximum speed limits for bicycles with electric assist, electric scooters, and pedal-assist commercial bicycles and basic rule.*

- (1) No person shall operate a bicycle with electric assist, an electric scooter, or a pedal-assist commercial bicycle at a speed greater than fifteen miles per hour except where official signs indicate a different maximum speed limit for a bicycle with electric assist, an electric scooter, or a pedal-assist commercial bicycle.
- (2) Where official signs are posted indicating a maximum speed limit for a bicycle with electric assist, an electric scooter, or a pedal-assist commercial bicycle, no person shall operate such a bicycle with electric assist, electric scooter, or pedal-assist commercial bicycle at a speed greater than such maximum speed limit.

**NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS
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**CERTIFICATION / ANALYSIS
PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 1043(d)**

RULE TITLE: Rules Relating to Speed Limits for Electric Bicycles and Scooters

REFERENCE NUMBER: DOT-90

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Transportation

I certify that this office has analyzed the proposed rule referenced above as required by Section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the proposed rule referenced above:

- (i) Is understandable and written in plain language for the discrete regulated community or communities;
- (ii) Minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community or communities consistent with achieving the stated purpose of the rule; and
- (iii) Does not provide a cure period because the violation cannot be corrected or undone.

/s/ Francisco X. Navarro
Mayor's Office of Operations

May 21, 2025
Date

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL
100 CHURCH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007
212-356-4028**

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
CHARTER §1043(d)**

RULE TITLE: Rules Relating to Speed Limits for Electric Bicycles and Scooters

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2025 RG 045

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Transportation

I certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed rule as required by section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the above-referenced proposed rule:

- (i) is drafted so as to accomplish the purpose of the authorizing provisions of law;
- (ii) is not in conflict with other applicable rules;
- (iii) to the extent practicable and appropriate, is narrowly drawn to achieve its stated purpose; and
- (iv) to the extent practicable and appropriate, contains a statement of basis and purpose that provides a clear explanation of the rule and the requirements imposed by the rule.

/s/ STEVEN GOULDEN
Senior Counsel

Date: May 20, 2025