

Ebikes – A Short Explanation....

We have a lot going for us here in the Okanagan when it comes to cycling. We have a long bike riding season and a great cycling infrastructure for all types of riding – commuting, recreation, road and mountain biking. We also have an above-average active population but those large hills and mountains surrounding us can sometimes be a challenge.



recovering from various injuries were now often able to ride an ebike to better assist them in their recovery.

Ebikes come with different strengths of motor torque (measured in newton-meters) and different capacity of lithium ion batteries (measured in watt-hours).

The higher the torque, the

more power you have for those hills. Focussing on the wattage of the motor is not an accurate measurement of torque. Depending on the bike, torque can range from as low as 35nM to as high as 85nM. The larger the battery capacity, the further you can ride before having to recharge the battery. Battery capacity typically ranges from a low of 400Wh to over 800Wh.

Now, those Okanagan hills aren't so daunting. Instead of putting their bikes onto a car rack and driving down to the valley to ride, the ebike riders can now ride down and back UP those hills – often riding more than ever before. People who hadn't jumped on a bike in years were now considering an ebike.

Just a heads up though, ebikes are going to be more expensive than the equivalent non-ebike - but keep in mind that you get what you pay for.

Ebikes will also be heavier and require a heavy duty bike rack to transport them with your car.

But no matter what your lifestyle or fitness level is, there is an ebike to suit you. The best way to determine which one to buy is to take a few for a test ride and determine which one is best suited for you and your needs.

But you better be ready.... to fall in love with them!

Garry Norkum
Cyclepath Kelowna Inc.

Then along came ebikes.....

They've been around for quite a few years as add-on kits and with either a rear hub drive motor or a front hub drive motor. Ebikes have been extremely popular in Europe for quite some time. It didn't really takeoff in North America until the larger manufacturers (Specialized, Giant, Trek, Norco, Devinci, Rocky Mountain, Cube, the list goes on) decided to start offering mid-drive ebikes. They incorporated the motor into the lower frame keeping a lower center of gravity and improving the bike handling. The time delay between putting pressure on the pedals and the motor assisting had now disappeared and now provided the rider with instant electric assist. The rider doesn't need a throttle to get them going when starting on an incline.

Mid-drive ebikes also got sleeker looking with the battery incorporated into the bike frame.

Instead of just comfy beach cruiser style ebikes, manufacturers were now providing ebike models and styles to suit all riders, similar to the choice they would have with non-ebikes. Expanding the model selection now increased the interest in ebikes – and then the ebike craze began!

With the increase in types of ebikes available, the age of the cyclists expanded to include riders in their teens to riders over 80 years old! People





HOP ON AN E-BIKE
AND LET THE
GOOD TIMES ROLL!

Curious about e-bikes? Come on in...
Talk to one of our experts.
Test rides encouraged!



www.cyclepathkelowna.com
2169 Springfield Rd, Kelowna
(250) 868-0122