

Ebike Eagle



Alternative transportation is about getting from A to B in smarter ways and I may have a fun one for you.

Walking, ride-sharing and public transit all take cars off the road, and that's a good thing for reasons that have been well documented by those more informed. But in Eagle we find ourselves with fewer alternative choices and our destinations seem farther between. It's not like living in the Northend where you can buy most of what you need, take in a movie or find five restaurants within a mile of your couch. Walking and biking to major shopping and business centers isn't something most of us would consider because *we chose* to live far away from major shopping and business centers.

Consider a pedal assist ebike. It's just like riding a bike because, well, it is a bike. All the controls are where they've always been. Everything feels the same except for one thing.

Gravity.

Unplug it from the wall and switch it on. When you begin to pedal the darn thing senses your effort and matches it. It feels like you're steering a bicycle-built-for-three and Kristin Armstrong and Lance Armstrong are on the back seats trying to impress each other. But they won't let you just steer -- if they sense you're slacking, they back off. You feel like you could ride all day.

And then you smile. People always smile the first time they feel that push.

Go ahead and imagine riding the greenbelt to the Shakespeare Festival. Or just showing up for a meeting in Boise and not smelling like an Armstrong. How about riding right up to the edge of the blue turf, locking this magic carpet to the fence, trotting upstairs to your seats, and then beating the traffic home after the Broncos win?

For some of us the vision is more practical. An ebike will add miles to your usual playground. It can take the pressure off a sore leg or back or allow you to keep up with the grandkids or an overachieving spouse. It can allow you to tow a trailer full dogs or drag two frozen turkeys home from the store. (It could happen.)

There is an ebike in my future because it'll help me live a longer, healthier, and happier life. It blurs the line between bicycles and motorcycles. There's even a little "midlife crisis convertible" in one and I qualify.

Steve Noyes

Trails Coordinator, City of Eagle

CORRECTION TO THIS ARTICLE:

In my haste to spread my enthusiasm for these modern marvels I spoke here about imagining a spin to the Shakespeare Festival on the greenbelt. This is not a good idea on an ebike. The City of Boise and Ada County have an ordinance prohibiting such activity. Some ebikes are capable of speeds that don't just blur the lines between bikes and motorcycles, they cross them at 30 MPH. Obviously not a safe option on the greenbelts. I apologize for the suggestion.