



PEOPLE OF E-BIKES

TESTIMONIALS FROM PEOPLE WHO CURRENTLY RIDE CLASS 1 AND 2 E-BIKES IN NASHVILLE





GLENN EDWARDS

Forever Young

“ My wife and I are in our 70s and have been avid bike riders all our lives. But after having knees and hips replaced, we just can’t handle the hills anymore. During to pandemic we ordered 2 e-bikes and it was the greatest thing we’ve done in recent history. Now we’re back on the road again.

It is one of the most enjoyable things we’ve done - it’s like being 10 years old again. Even if we go out just to enjoy a ride without planning on exercising, we usually end up riding longer and getting a great work out. ”



TINA L. FOX

Black Girls Do Bike

“ I decided to invest in an e-bike to alleviate the pain from my arthritic right knee after being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 2019. The pedal assist allows me to continue enjoying what I enjoy most... cycling outdoors. E-bikes on greenways won’t propose any threat of running over pedestrians, other cyclists, etc.; however, it will allow those who have them to enjoy the scenery that non-e-bikers do. Lastly, an e-bike doesn’t operate like a motorcycle and isn’t loud and boisterous. Instead, it’s a regular bicycle that has a small, quiet motor to aid in pedaling. ”



ROB BENSHOOF

Contractor

“ I ride e-bikes for multiple reasons. E-bikes allow me to ride farther and more difficult routes than I could on my own power. This allows me to take long challenging rides with groups of young adults that I could not do on a regular bike. If I hop on my bike and hit the greenway to ride all the way to Percy Priest Dam and back, it’s a 30 mi ride. I’m more inclined to do that ride on my e-bike because I can adjust how much effort I use. E-bikes are a great equalizer. E-bikes allow riders of different abilities and strengths - like grandparents and grandchildren - to ride together. ”



MARK PATTERSON

Hill Crusher

“ I am 70 years old with arthritic knees. My e-bike allows me to enjoy riding without having to stress my knees starting from a dead stop or going up hill. On moderate terrain I do not use pedal assist so generally my riding is no different from anyone else. This is a safe and healthy activity for seniors and others with challenges in their lower extremities. ”



KATHERINE MCDONELL

Super Mom

“ I am a neurologist at Vanderbilt and have commuted by bicycle for the past 10 years. I’m also the mother of a 2.5-year-old, with our second child on the way. I started riding an e-bike when I was 8 months pregnant with my daughter, which made it possible for me to continue riding throughout my pregnancy. I’m now 30 weeks into my second pregnancy and am still biking to work every day (even with the hills and the August heat!). I also take my daughter to daycare using an e-bike, which requires us to ride on greenways and shared use paths because our streets are unfortunately still not safe enough to take children on.

As a physician, I have also seen firsthand how life-changing e-bikes can be for patients with mobility challenges. Pedal assist bikes make bicycling an accessible transportation option for people who would otherwise not be able to ride, including the elderly and those with disabilities. Like me, many of these people ride on greenways, which are one of the few safe places to ride a bike in Nashville and serve as a critical part of our transportation network.

I ask you to please update Nashville’s policy to comply with state law and allow pedal assist e-bikes on greenways. E-bikes are mobility devices, and to exclude those who rely on them from the safest parts of our bicycle network would be impractical and discriminatory toward those who need them the most. ”

JIM WALCZAK *Born Again Cyclist*

“ At 57 years old I thought biking was behind me. With an e-bike I can get out and exercise again. Now I need somewhere to do it safely. ”



ANDREW BODSFORD

Nashville Strong

“ I’ve been riding my ebike on the Greenways for years and NEVER had a problem so let’s not start one. ”



SALLY LUCKETT

Easy Rider

“ I love the e-bikes because I’m older so I can’t ride as far as I used to. The weather in Nashville is so hot that sometimes I need to do the pedal assist just to get home so I don’t pass out from the heat! ”



BRUCE BARRY

Vanderbilt Professor

“An e-bike makes it possible for someone like me (a regular bike commuter and occasional leisure rider) to do a few key things: ride any route rather than avoid steep hills; ride in any weather; ride more often; ride longer. This is not a motorized vehicle; it’s a bicycle with some assist. The greenways are not just recreational paths, they are part of the city’s transportation network, and bicycles that rely on the rider to pedal should continue to have access to them – and that includes e-bikes.”



PETER ROBISON

Super Commuter

“I principally rely on an e-bike to get to and from work, and I use two different greenways to get to work safely. When I was younger I used to bike to work sometimes, but the 12 miles of my commute were tiring and it was a little hard on my knees. Since I got an e-bike I ride to work more frequently and it is much easier on my body. I still take the bus on rainy days, but I prefer the e-bike to the bus because I can keep my own schedule, and it gives me the flexibility to go to meetings out of the office or pick up groceries on the way home. Greenways are part of our transportation network, and I very much want to keep both Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes legal on all greenways.”



CAREY ROGERS

Cancer Survivor

“I began riding bikes 20 years ago after defeating colon cancer. I could, and did, ride 40 or 50 miles some days. I began using bikes for transportation around my neighborhood. A few years ago my aging body (68 years old) suggested I try a different method. I discovered electric bikes, which still require physical effort, but make it easier to climb the hills of Nashville and deal with summer heat. I use the e-bike for rides across town where I would have used a bicycle in the past. I’ve ridden my e-bike on greenways for five years without a problem and I don’t anticipate any in the future. E-bikes allow people like me to get off the couch and experience Nashville’s greenways. That is a positive good for all of us.”



BEN ROSENBLUM *Father of Two*

“I ride my e-bike to work every day - from West End to my office downtown. I’m an avid cyclist and I ride far faster on my unassisted road bike. I never planned to ride an e-bike, but it’s proven to be a wonderful investment. It’s very comfortable and sturdy, and I can still comfortably begin pedaling from a stop - even when I’m pulling my two daughters in a trailer - thanks to the motor assistance. I also don’t struggle up hills. Finally, it helps me get to work without sweating too much. Very simply, I would not be riding as much as I do without the e-bike.”



JESSICA ANCKER

I use an e-bike to commute to work. By doing that, I'm helping to reduce traffic and emissions for everyone in Nashville. E-bikes are bicycles, which require pedaling for power; they are not scooters or motorcycles, which provide power without the need to pedal. That means e-bikes should be treated like any other bicycle.

ADAM BLAIR

I purchased my first e-bike in March 2021. It was Nashville's hilly terrain and my proximity to the Harpeth River Greenway that caused me to take the leap, and I'm so glad I did. The beauty of e-bikes is that they make riding a bike even more enjoyable and accessible. I bike more using my e-bike than I had with my conventional bike, which has led directly to fewer vehicle trips, something Nashville desperately needs to address. Rather than banning an essential travel mode from a key piece of transportation infrastructure, I hope the city will do the sensible thing and continue to allow e-bikes on the greenways.

TIM BROWN

My wife and I are in our 60s and retired. We have have owned e-bikes for over 12 years. We ride e-bikes for fun, exercise, and to go places.

Greenways allow us to get to other parts of the city while staying off main roads and also avoid traffic and parking issues. We ride across town for festivals, music, and restaurants.

I also ride on my own for longer distances or fun and exercise. I regularly ride on the Cumberland River Greenway, Richland Creek Greenway, Shelby Bottoms and Percy Warner Park and I have ridden as far as Percy Priest Dam and Radnor Lake.

KAREN BROWN

I have owned an e-bike for 10+ years. I'm an older (60+) leisure rider and like to feel like I'm getting some exercise riding my pedal assist e-bike around town. I like to explore Nashville with my husband on our e-bikes.

I can't imagine why my e-bike wouldn't be allowed on the greenways when regular bikes are allowed. They aren't really that different. While walking on the greenways, I have observed "real" bikers who ride fast (betting at least 20+ MPH), often 2 abreast...and they aren't on e-bikes. They are way more dangerous to walkers/runners than I would be.

KATHRYN EGLI

I am 63 years old, and I have ridden an e-bike on a half day trip. The e-bike makes it easy to keep up with a group of riders. If you get tired, the assist can help you to get back where you need to go. I am all for having the e-bike on the greenway for seniors as long as the rider needs assistance. If riders are operating e-bikes at high speeds, those riders should be banned from using an e-bike on the greenway.

TOM EVANS

My companions are used to doing regular 45-mile club rides on rural roads in north-central Tennessee and southern Kentucky. With all of us over 65, we were finding these rides beyond our capabilities. But, we relished the comradery, recreation, and health benefits. The e-bike provided us a way to continue.

My e-bike encourages me to ride far more often. I take it to visit friends, to grocery shop and other errands, or to get a little exercise in the early morning or late afternoon. With my conventional bike I would have all kinds of excuses not to ride and instead use the car.

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GARY GOLD

E-bikes changed my life. At my age, I am unable to ride much of the greenway and pedal assist opened that up for me. I now have my health back. I am certain when people truly understand the facts - that there are classes of e-bikes and the ones we are talking about actually go a little slower than non-assisted bikes - they'll understand e-bikes are not meant for speed but for assistance.

MARK GUNDERSON

E-bikes are accessibility devices. After my hip and knee surgery, I can ride an e-bike but not a pedal bike. Prohibiting my use of e-bikes on greenways is a violation of my rights under the ADA. It's clear that in this case the city has not just failed to make a reasonable accommodation but through their policies and actions have taken specific and egregious steps to exclude disabled people like me from participation in public life and use of facilities open to the public.

MALLORY HACKER

I used to e-bike commute from East Nashville to Vanderbilt. As roads here in Nashville are not bike-friendly, I would use the Music City Bikeway. I now have an infant son and hope to e-bike on greenways with him to get him to daycare in the future. Nashville roads are not safe enough for me to take my baby on them. I will no longer bike commute unless there are e-bike friendly greenways (or physically protected bike lanes) on my route.

WYNN HAWKER-BOEHNKE

My e-bike is an accessibility need. Non-e-bikes struggle with my weight. In my rides I continue to meet other people with bodies like mine who are excited about the possibility that e-bikes can afford us in movement and outdoor recreation options.

If e-bikes were banned from the greenways, that would eliminate my ability to access them and reduce the safe areas for me to bike. I hope that as more of us acquire e-bikes that the city has not taken the stance to limit equal access to the greenways.

ERIC HOKE

E-bikes and scooters are great ways to get around. I often commute on greenways and don't like showing up to meetings all sweaty. E-bikes are a great way to not use a car and not get overheated in the summer.

BONNY HOPWOOD

I use my e-bike on the Harpeth River Greenway to travel to Bellevue for shopping. I am a 66-year-old woman with major back issues and my e-bike allows me freedom.

WILLIAM HUBBARD

I work downtown and I love riding BCycles when I have a break. Everyone can share the greenways responsibly. Greenways are crucial to enjoying biking downtown. To deny greenways to BCycle is to substantially diminish the opportunities and enjoyment of riding downtown. E-bikes can be as respectful as traditional bikes on the greenways. E-bikes could not be allowed on parts of greenways, such as the left loop at Shelby Bottoms could be preserved for walkers and families, while the bikers ride the main arteries.

JIM JOHNSON

I ride e-bikes so I can ride with friends and keep up with them. I ride e-bikes because I can try longer rides and know that I'll have an extra push if I need it to get home. These days, I ride e-bikes even more often because I'm suffering from long-haul COVID and have lost much of my stamina.

I have ridden on greenways in nearly 20 countries and have never had any issues with e-bikes.

ANGEL KELLMAN

I ride a regular pedal bike and my husband rides an e-bike. We have 3 small children who ride with us when we ride as a family. With his e-bike, he can easily tow 2 of the kids behind his bike. Towing 2 kids in a bike trailer means he is pulling 80-90 pounds behind his bike. Having an e-bike makes our ride a lot more enjoyable and we are able to go further. I don't believe we would do as many family bike rides without his pedal assist e-bike.



MATT KULIGOWSKI

I am an avid road cyclist, but I do not ride e-bikes. One day I was riding hills in Percy Warner Park when someone on an e-bike passed me going up one of the steepest hills in the park. I realized that e-bikes give access to parts of the parks and greenways that some people didn't have before. That made me happy!

JENNIFER LOFTIS

My husband and I live in Sylvan Park and purchased e-bikes in January 2020. We use our e-bikes primarily as a mode of transportation. We feel safer using the greenway routes because bike lanes in Nashville are subpar. We have been to some amazing bike friendly cities and I always have bike envy when I leave! E-bikes should most definitely be allowed on the greenway!

ZARY RAHIMI

E-bikes are one way I can get exercise without putting too much pressure on my knees, and the greenways are a safe place for me. I definitely would not go on the roads. Most people I encounter on the greenways don't even realize I'm riding an e-bike.

DEBORAH ROBERTS

I bought a pedal assist e-bike for two reasons: to be able to ride with my friends and to keep up with my 6-year-old grandson.

My knees just can't make it up hills anymore. Within a month of getting my e-bike, I was able to complete the 11 mile loop around Cades Cove in the Smoky Mountains for the first time since the 1990s.

I recently moved to Nashville and was thrilled to find a home that adjoins the Stones River Greenway. Soon after moving, I accompanied the grandkids to the Richland Creek Greenway. The two year old stayed with their mom while I followed two 5-year-olds on training wheels. It was pure delight.

RODNEY SEE

If the streets were safer for cyclists, I could agree with limiting the use of Ebikes on Greenways. However, given the general disregard for cyclists safety, I find it laughable to think someone would tell someone else not to ride their e-bike on the Greenways. I ride to work. I ride on the Greenways. I don't even care for Nashville BCycle, but I would encourage any of their riders to enjoy our wonderful Greenways. (Note: An e-bike that doesn't require the rider to pedal is, in fact, a Moped. I speak favorably only of pedal powered e-bikes.)

JULIE SHAFFNER

As a conventional bike user, I fully support the use of e-bikes on greenways. Anything to give people more (safe! fun! easy! healthy! environmentally friendly!) options for how to get around town should be welcomed with open arms.

SLOAN SHORE

I'm on a mission to better health and I have enjoyed riding on the Richland Creek Greenway. I ride the greenway for exercise, to have for transportation, and sometimes to work via the greenway. It's a great ride and I would not be able to travel the distances I do without the assistance of my e-bike, especially climbing the steep hill back to my home.





MARA SOMMERS

I moved here from Miami and love riding my bike, but I wasn't used to riding on hills. There are some (to me) steep hills between where I live and Shelby Park. I bought an ebike so that I have power assist when I need it going up the hills. Most of the time when I'm on a flat greenway I turn off the power. I don't know why having ebikes on greenways is an issue. They don't go fast enough to cause any problems. I have been using mine on the greenways without incident since I bought it. Experienced riders can go as fast as or faster than I can on my ebike. I often get passed by riders who are on regular bikes. I will be very disappointed if I will be unable to ride my bike on the greenways. I do not feel safe riding in the streets in very many areas. And what will you do if I'm on the greenway on my ebike with the power off? Will I have to buy a regular bike now? Please don't prohibit us from using our ebikes. That essentially is what you will do if you ban ebikes on the greenways.

KIM SORENSEN

My e-bike helps me tackle the hilly areas of Nashville after my two knee surgeries. It gets me outside much more, because I know I can ride as far as I like and still make it back to the start. I don't see an issue with e-bikes on the greenways. E-bikes don't go as fast as some folks may think - I've seen people on regular bikes go much faster. I'd love to see pedal assist bikes allowed on the greenways.

ERIC MALO

I have been riding an e-bike for about 3-4 years and love using it to get around the city. Using an e-bike for transportation is much more feasible for me than owning another car. Using greenways would be a huge benefit due to geographic connections.

ROBBIN MASTERS

I had a road bike for several years which sat idle in my garage, largely because I wasn't strong enough to get it up hills. I transitioned to an e-bike and now it is my primary form of exercise. I keep the power low and only use the real power on hills. I am also able to commute to work! I use greenways for part of this ride, which is great for the environment, traffic and my own mental health!

MICHAEL MEEKS

I am a disabled firefighter. Due to lung problems, I found it difficult to enjoy the greenway on a regular pedal bike. I purchased a trike for stability, but was concerned that breathing problems would lead to needing EMS on my ride. I added an e-bike kit and now enjoy worry-free riding.

I have been passed by pedal-powered bikes at speeds well over the posted greenway speed limit. Please don't legislate our needs to enjoy the greenway trying to control a few.

BOB MENDES

I ride an e-bike for transit. I have ridden my e-bike to at least 15 of Metro's 35 Council districts. I regularly use our greenways to get around town on my e-bike because that is often the only safe route, or certainly a safer route, to get where I need to go. E-bikes are safe and they are here to stay - and our greenways have to be integrated into Metro's multimodal transit future.

I support allowing all e-bikes on our greenways.



MONA MILLER

After riding road bikes for 30 years, I had both hips replaced and got a step-through pedal assist e-bike. Riding an e-bike keeps all the FUN and gets rid of the “ugh” of hills. I can ride longer with less concern about the terrain. As demand for e-bikes grows, more e-bike riders will use the greenways to commute, run errands, and exercise. The more people that use the trails, the more advocates we have for more greenways and protected bike lanes. E-bikes are a win-win for all cycling and greenway expansion advocates.

MIKE NOBLE

I am a lifelong bicycle rider, putting in a few thousand miles on my regular bike as an adult via to the Richland Creek Greenway traveling to Warner Parks. After a medical issue sidelined me from biking for several years, I wanted to get back into riding but at 63 years of age I'd lost my riding legs. The advent of the e-bike gave me new found strength and ability to back on a bike. It's a wonderful asset that allows me to get much needed exercise and activity to keep my health up. The added battery and motor on my e-bike give me help getting up hills and covering more distance. For me to be able to use the greenway to cross the creek and get to West Nashville is a godsend to keep me safe. Also, the use of BCycle to get to the grocery store was great and I miss using that.

BUNNY PORTER-SHIRLEY

Seven years ago - at the age of 73 - I went on a backroads bike trip and used an e-bike for the first time. The e-bike changed my life. At age 75, I bought my e-bike. Owning an e-bike has kept me active and biking. I love our greenways and would be so saddened to not have access to them. I am very hesitant to ride the street even with the stanchions on protected bike lanes. Without the greenways I will likely have to stop biking. My average bike speed is maybe 12 mph ... and I promise you that most of the bikers on the greenways who are not on e-bikes are traveling at much greater speeds. Please take into consideration seniors such as myself. I turned 80 in April.

DEBORAH ROBERTS

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My knees just can't make it up hills anymore. Within a month of getting my e-bike, I was able to complete the 11 mile loop around Cades Cove in the Smoky Mountains for the first time since the 1990s.

I recently moved to Nashville and was thrilled to find a home that adjoins the Stones River Greenway. Soon after moving, I accompanied the grandkids to the Richland Creek Greenway. The two year old stayed with their mom while I followed two 5-year-olds on training wheels. It was pure delight.

LYNNETTE WALCZAK

I used to bicycle long distances to stay in shape and meet friends. Now that I'm 55, I ride an e-bike to stay in shape. I'd like to ride more frequently near where I live (rather than having to tote my bike to a nearby city... or statel), but there are so few trails around here. (And so few bike paths on the roads as well.) So it's difficult to plot out a route to enjoy riding for very long on a single day.

PETER WESTERHOLM

I've been an avid e-bike rider for three years. I use my electric cargo bike primarily for transportation, using combinations of greenways, bike lanes, and regular streets to navigate trips to work, to the grocery store, or dropping the kids off at daycare.

My e-bike accommodates 80% of my transportation needs.

I've spent a lot of time on the greenways with both a regular bike and my e-bike and feel like e-bikes are a natural fit. E-bikes are quiet and emissions free and they allow more people at a greater range of fitness levels to experience biking and the greenways.

JACK WILLIAMS

At 75+ years of age, e-bikes are the only option for many of us who love biking and love our greenways. In my 4 years of e-bike riding experience I've never seen an e-bike rider going at an excessive speed or riding irresponsibly.

