COMMUNITY WORKSHOP · THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 · 6:00 PM

E-Bikes in East Greenwich

A community conversation on safety, the law, schools and shared spaces



Swift Gymnasium · 121 Peirce Street

Town of East Greenwich Community Services & Parks · East Greenwich Police Department · East Greenwich Public Schools · NBX Bikes

TONIGHT'S PANEL

Meet the panelists

Andrew Wade

Director of Community Services & Parks
Town of East Greenwich

Moderator · Parks and shared spaces

Matt Bodziony

Owner
NBX Bikes

E-bike classes and buying smart

Sgt. Glen Terilli

Sergeant
East Greenwich Police Department

Rhode Island law and enforcement

Dr. Thomas Kenworthy

Superintendent
East Greenwich Public Schools

Getting to school safely

How it works

Each panelist leads a short segment, then all four take your questions in the open discussion to follow.

HOW TONIGHT RUNS

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
6:00	Welcome and why we’re here	Andrew Wade, Community Services & Parks
6:10	Know your ride: classes, problem devices, buying smart	Matt Bodziony, Owner, NBX Bikes
6:25	Rhode Island law, state action and enforcement	Sgt. Glen Terilli, East Greenwich Police
6:45	Getting to school safely	Dr. Thomas Kenworthy, Superintendent, EG Public Schools
6:55	Parks and shared public spaces	Andrew Wade
7:05	Open discussion	All panelists and you
7:30	Wrap-up and next steps	Andrew Wade

WHY WE'RE HERE

What residents are telling us



Sidewalks

Riders pushing walkers, strollers and seniors aside on busy sidewalks.

Rules of the road

Stop signs run, riding against traffic, weaving between cars.

Parks & crowds

High speeds on paths, near playgrounds and through community events.

Young riders

Children on devices too fast and too powerful for their age.

Tonight's goals

Understand the equipment · Clarify what Rhode Island law requires · Hear how schools are managing student riders · Gather **your** ideas for local solutions

LIVE POLL · MENTIMETER

What comes to mind when you hear “e-bikes”?

Scan the code with your phone camera and answer in a word or two.

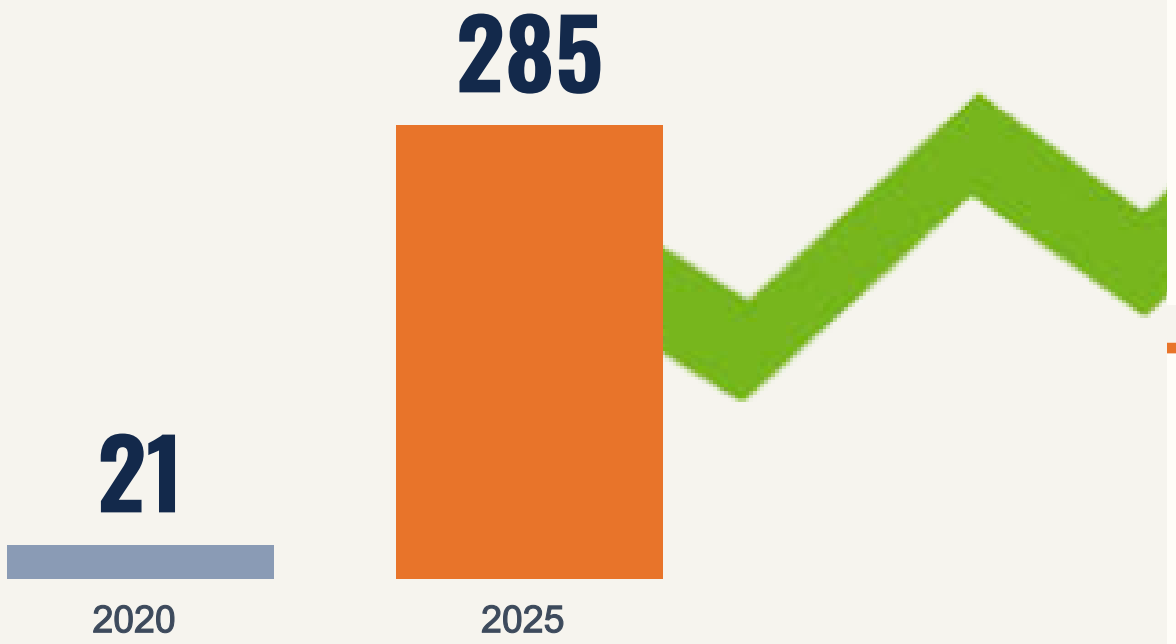
Answers appear on screen as they come in.

Scan to join

THE RHODE ISLAND PICTURE

E-bike injuries are climbing fast

Brown University Health: e -bike and e -scooter injury visits



More than 13 times as many visits in five years. Source: WPRI, via EGPD

143

e-bike ER visits at Hasbro Children's Hospital in just the first **seven months** of 2026, compared with 85 in all of 2025

40%

of those injured riders were **under age 18**

Source: The Valley Breeze, via East Greenwich Police Department

WHY THE INJURIES ARE WORSE

Faster speeds. More serious injuries.



Doctors report e -bike crashes cause more severe trauma than regular bicycle crashes: **traumatic brain injuries, skull fractures and internal bleeding.**

At speeds up to 28 mph, standard bicycle helmets offer less protection than riders assume.

Source: East Greenwich Police Department, citing Brown University Health and Hasbro Children's Hospital reporting

KNOW YOUR RIDE · MATT BODZIONY, OWNER, NBX BIKES

Three legal classes of e-bike

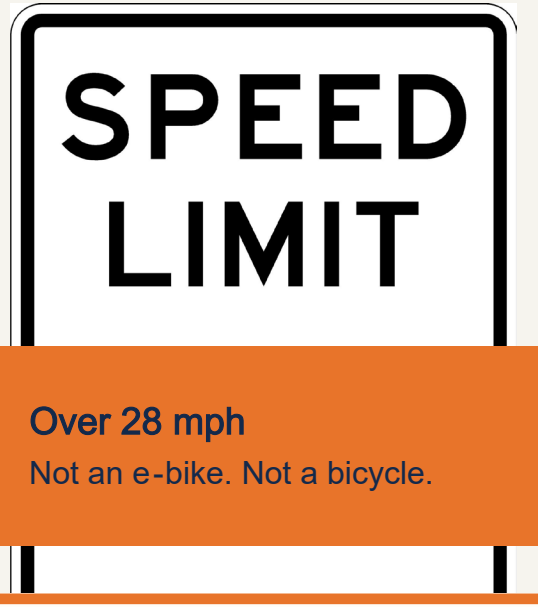


	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
How the motor helps	Only while pedaling	Throttle, no pedaling needed	Only while pedaling
Motor stops helping at	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph
State bike paths	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Minimum rider age	16	16	16
Helmet	Required under 21	Required under 21	Required under 21

RIGL §31-19.7-1 (classes) ·§31-19.7-2 (bike paths) · §31-3-2.2 (age) ·§31-19.7-3 (helmets)

KNOW YOUR RIDE · MATT BODZIONY, NBX BIKES

Over 28 mph? It’s not an e-bike.



0–20 mph
Class 1 and Class 2 assist limit

20–28 mph
Class 3 assist limit

Over 28 mph
Not an e-bike. Not a bicycle.

E-motos

High-powered, dirt-bike style machines sold online as “e-bikes.”

Throttle machines

Devices that can go well past 28 mph on throttle alone.

Modified bikes

Legal e-bikes unlocked or tampered with to go faster.

They look like bicycles but perform like motorcycles, and they drive many of the complaints we hear.

KNOW YOUR RIDE · MATT BODZIONY, NBX BIKES

Before you buy: a parent’s checklist



Check the class

Look for a label showing the bike’s class and top assisted speed. No label, no sale.

Check the age

Riders must be 16 or older for any class on public roads, sidewalks and rights-of-way.

Check the battery

Choose a UL 2849-certified electrical system. Charge at home on a hard surface, never at school.

Check the seller

Buy from a shop that can explain Rhode Island law and service the bike after the sale.

RHODE ISLAND LAW · SGT. GLEN TERILLI, EAST GREENWICH POLICE

Who can ride



16

Minimum age, every class

No one under 16 may operate **any** e-bike, Class 1, 2 or 3, on public roads, streets, sidewalks or rights-of-way.

RIGL §31-3-2.2

21

Helmets required under 21

Riders **and passengers** under 21 must wear a fitted, strapped, CPSC-certified helmet on roads, paths, parks and school property.

RIGL §31-19.7-3 · Recommended at every age

RHODE ISLAND LAW · SGT. GLEN TERILLI, EAST GREENWICH POLICE

Where you can ride



Class 1: state bike paths

Allowed on state bicycle paths, including the East Bay Bike Path and the Blackstone River Bikeway.

RIGL §31-19.7-2

Class 2 and 3: the road

Roads, shoulders and designated bike lanes, following all traffic laws. Not on state bike paths.

Over 28 mph: not a bicycle, not allowed where bicycles are

Rules of the road apply to every rider

- Ride with traffic
- Stop at signs and signals
- Signal your turns
- Yield to pedestrians
- Lights at night





WHAT'S COMING · SGT. GLEN TERILLI, EAST GREENWICH POLICE

Rhode Island is still writing the rules

RI Micromobility Working Group

Led by State Reps. Jennifer Boylan and Earl A. Read III. Statewide recommendations could address:

- Age restrictions and helmet requirements
- Speed tiers, speed limits and road restrictions
- Clearer equipment definitions
- Retailer requirements on sales and equipment information
- Public education campaigns

2026 House Bill 7789

Introduced February 2026. Status: [confirm before presenting]. It would:

- Create a Class 4 for bikes over 750 watts and 28 mph, regulated as recreational vehicles
- Require e-bike sellers to post Rhode Island law
- Extend the hands -free law to e -bikes and scooters
- Confirm cities and towns can regulate sidewalks and paths

ENFORCEMENT · SGT. GLEN TERILLI, EAST GREENWICH POLICE

Enforcement: the reality on the street

The challenges

- A bike's class, power or modifications are hard to identify at roadside
- Many riders are juveniles with no license to act on
- State law doesn't cover every local need, like busy sidewalks and crowded parks

Outcomes we want

- Education first
- Parent accountability
- Consistent rules across town, schools and parks
- Safer streets, sidewalks and parks

East Greenwich data

[Sgt. Terilli: local calls for service, stops, crashes or complaints involving e -bikes and scooters]



EAST GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS · DR. THOMAS KENWORTHY, SUPERINTENDENT

Getting to school safely



Expected

- Wear a helmet
- Yield to pedestrians and follow traffic laws
- Dismount in congested campus areas
- Park only in designated locations

Prohibited

- Riding inside buildings
- Charging batteries at school
- Modified or illegal devices
- Racing or carrying passengers

Consequences

- Warnings and parent notification
- Loss of privileges
- Confiscation of unsafe devices
- Discipline under the Code of Conduct

Policy 8500, adopted August 18, 2026. The Superintendent may add grade -level limits, registration and safety training each year. ADA, 504 and IEP mobility devices are not restricted.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & PARKS · ANDREW WADE

Parks and shared spaces

Where conflicts happen

- Walking paths shared with strollers, dogs and seniors
- Fields and playgrounds during youth games and practices
- Large community events and crowded gathering areas

ANTICIPATED IMPROVEMENTS · PROPOSED PARK ORDINANCE

Class 1: allowed

Allowed wherever regular bicycles are allowed.

Class 2: paved only

Throttle e -bikes barred from trails, grass and dirt paths.

Class 3: banned

28 mph e -bikes prohibited in all parks and recreation areas.

Off courts & fields

No e-bikes on infields or courts. Stricter trail rules may be posted.

Question for you: where in town do you see the most conflicts?

Proposed under draft Chapter 166, Parks and Recreation (revised draft v5), § 166-17(E); pending Town Solicitor review and Town Council adoption. Mobility devices for people with disabilities are exempt.

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE

What we need from you



Parents

Know your child’s age and the bike’s class before you buy. Require a fitted helmet every ride. Charge batteries safely at home.

Riders

Ride with traffic, obey signs and signals, yield to pedestrians and slow down around people.

Residents

Report specific locations, times and behaviors, not just general concerns. Details help us respond.

Retailers

Explain Rhode Island law at the point of sale and steer families toward age -appropriate equipment.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Let’s talk.

What have you seen firsthand, and where?

What role should parents, schools and police each play?

Should East Greenwich adopt local rules for sidewalks, parks or paths?

What education or programs would help your family most?



THANK YOU FOR COMING

Thank you

East Greenwich Police Department

Sgt. Glen Terilli
gterilli@eastgreenwichri.gov

East Greenwich Public Schools

Dr. Thomas Kenworthy, Superintendent
tkenworthy@egsd.net

NBX Bikes

Matt Bodziony, Owner
922 Boston Neck Road, Narragansett
nbxbikes.com

"ride for the fun of it"

Community Services & Parks Department

Andrew Wade, Director
awade@eastgreenwichri.gov
401-886 -8350

Questions or ideas after tonight?

Andrew Wade, Director of Community Services & Parks

401-886 -8350 · awade@eastgreenwichri.gov