ebikes

ROARING FORK + COLORADO RIVER VALLEY
PUBLIC INPUT

ROARING FORK + COLORADO RIVER VALLEY PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

I. OVERVIEW

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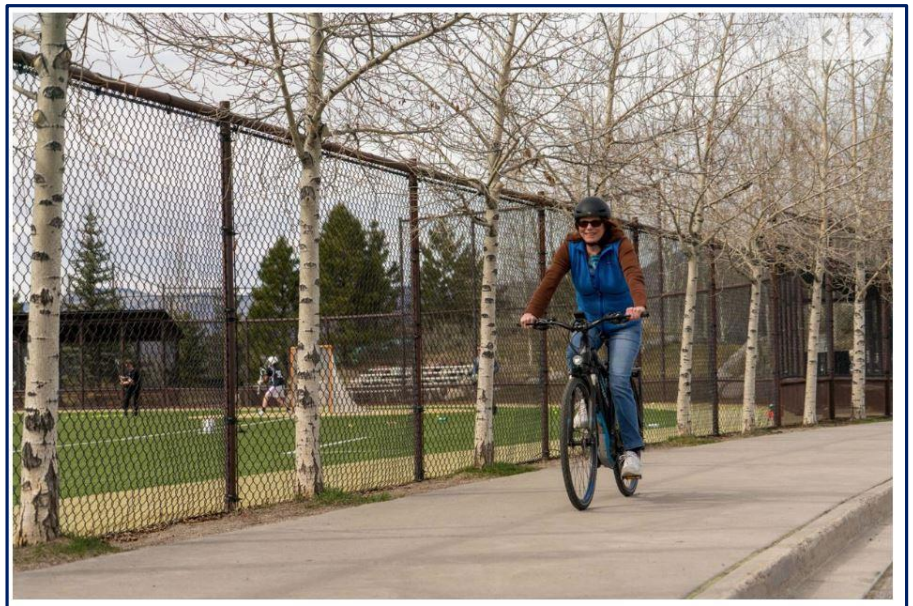
- In 2017, HB17-1151 Electrical Assisted Bicycles Regulation Operation was passed. The bill changed Colorado bike law, specifically C.R.S. § 42-4- 1412, to allow Class I and II electric assisted bicycles on multi-use trails unless explicitly prohibited by the managing land agency. The bill gives local governments the authority to allow or prohibit the use of specified classes of electrical assisted bicycles on pedestrian paths and bike paths
- Public interest and discussion of e-bikes has been increasing over recent months in the valley.
- E-bikes are newer technology with inconsistent regulation. Consistent local policy is desired among the involved entities.



Aspen local Kathleen Brewer takes a class 1 E-bike for a spin outside the Aspen Rec Center Tuesday afternoon during a demo and public input gathering event at the Aspen Rec Center. A survey regarding E-bike use on the paved portions of the Rio Grande Trail is currently circulating to determine the feasibility of e-bike use on the trail.

Craig Turpin/Aspen Daily News

I. OVERVIEW

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Regional public process to **gather public opinion on class 1 & 2 e-bike usage on paved trails from New Castle to Aspen** with targeted outreach campaign, a project specific website, project brand and hosted e-bikes events.

- The project specific website serves as a hub for e-bike information and provides resource links to the most recent regional e-bike study, and Colorado laws and policy.
- Public interest and discussion of e-bikes has been increasing over recent months in the valley.
- Consistency of regulation is desired among the involved entities to provide simplicity and clarity to the general public and cycling community.
- Public input and participation during the collection process provided a solid sample set to base for the committee to form recommendations.
- It is advised that any new policy or policy changes should be accompanied by continued, periodic multi-jurisdictional/agency review with observation of users and user experience.

I. OVERVIEW

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Public comments were collected via the project webpage, a 13-question electronic survey and comment submission, public meet-ups, written comments and surveys, and a project phone line.*

- Survey Focus: residence, experience with e-bikes, use of the paved trail system, support or opposition of class 1 & 2 e-bikes usage.

The project webpage was publicized on project team (justifications and agency) websites, social platforms, flyers, advertisements (see page 4) , radio and community calendar beginning on March 16, 2018 the public comment period closed April 20, 2018.

The public meet-ups/demos:

- 4/4/18 Carbondale – rec center – shade pavilion, along Rio Grande Trail: ~35 attendees
- 4/5/18 New Castle - Lakota Rec Center: ~15 attendees
- 4/10/18 Aspen – Aspen Rec Center ~25 attendees
- 4/11/18 Glenwood Springs behind H.S. parking lot along Rio Grande Trail ~30 attendees
- 4/12/18 Basalt - by H.S. parking lot, along Rio Grande Trail ~10 attendees

*For a complete copy of submissions, comments and survey results, please see **Exhibit A – Survey Results and Public Comments [March 19, 2018-April 20, 2018].**

I. OVERVIEW - MEDIA

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The following is a summary of media coverage on the initiative:

4/16/18: Aspen Daily News: Public Interest High in E-Bikes
4/9/18: Glenwood Post: What's the Deal with E-Bikes in Colorado
3/17/18: Aspen Daily News: E-Bike Public Outreach Project

KDNK: event announcements day of Carbondale & Glenwood Springs
KJAX: event announcements day of Aspen & Basalt

- Aspen Public Radio covered the effort in news article ll.

- PR STUDIO monitored commentary on all digital platforms, throughout the process.

II. PUBLIC AWARENESS BRAND:

Logos/Website/Flyer/Print Advertising

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The objective was to create an identify that was nonspecific to a government agency.

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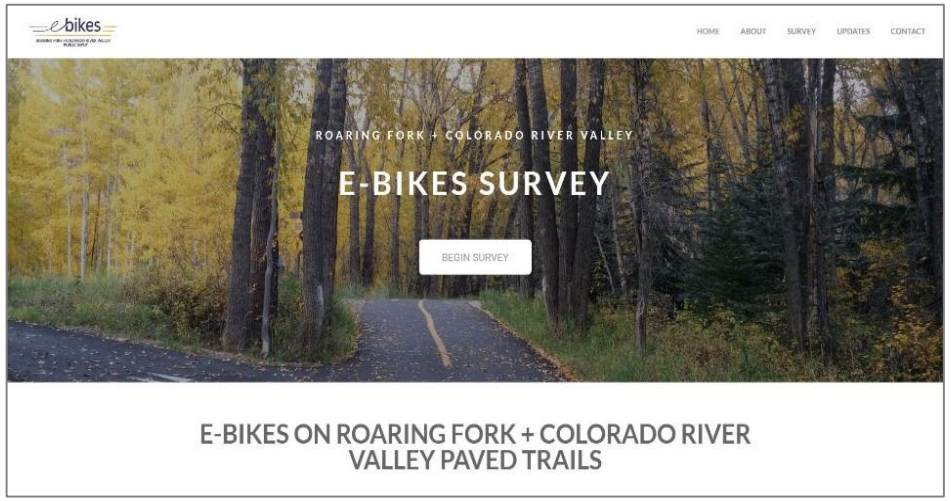
http://www.ebikesroaringforkvalley.com/



The project website remains active, but the survey is closed. PR STUDIO will upload the presentation survey results the week of 4/30/18.

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

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PUBLIC INPUT

The overarching trend on allowing e-bikes on paved trails:

- Solid support of class 1, **68.65%.**
- For class 2 e-bikes, slightly more survey takers were in support (49.42%) than opposed (40.44%).
- The 32 direct comments (website submission, e-mails, comment cards) were divided by: 11 in opposition of use of e-bikes on paved trails and 21 in support of use of e-bikes on paved trails.

Themes on Support:

- **alleviating traffic congestion**
- **older/aging population** to continue their use of the trail system
- **commuting**
- alternative **transportation**
- **health/exercise**
- allowing for a more **diverse crowd to use the trails.**

Themes in Opposition:

- **safety**, and **etiquette** were the overwhelming statements
- concerns about the **dangers** of tourist, unskilled cyclists in multi-use, congested areas
- enforcement of **speed limits**
- belief that anything with a **motor** should be on a roadway not a trail.
- **disruptive** to non-cyclists.

Themes in Both:

- **Etiquette** and **enforcing speed limits** as an important focus if they are allowed, and to be part of the recommendation.

- There were also quite a few comments regarding suggestion of a test period, for example: *"Allow then revisit. If the public can't handle them, out they go."*

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

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PUBLIC INPUT

- A total of **984** participants contributed with **952** survey respondents and **32** comments (submitted from the website, e-mail, & comment cards).
- Meet-up/Demo Events: ~100

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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Participants residence (Q1):

Aspen had the most participants at 203, followed by Carbondale at 178 and Glenwood Springs at 169.

- Upvalley (Aspen, Snowmass Village, Woody Creek Old Snowmass, Pitkin County): **340**
- Midvalley (Basalt, El Jebel, Carbondale, Eagle County): **286**
- Downvalley (Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle, Unincorporated Garfield County): **239**
- Elsewhere in CO: **68** (7.23%)
- Outside of CO: **8** (.85%)

Age of Participants (Q2):

The majority of the participants, **53.64%**, identified themselves as 51+, the remainder of the age division:

21.18%	**Ages 41-50**
16.86%	**Ages 31-40**
7.57%	**Ages 21-30**
1.05%	**Ages 0-20**

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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Ownership & Experience with E-Bikes: (Q3-5):

- 23.76% (225) of participants own an e-bike, 19.47% use for commuting, 34.98% use for leisure, 43.23% use for both. 15.75% answered other, stating reasons such as: exercise, health, fun, social group rides, car replacement, work, shopping, banking and errands.
- 554 have ridden an e-bike
- 396 have not

Typical activities participants use the paved trail systems for, allowing for checking all activities listed that apply as well as a write in for 'other' (Q6):

- A strong majority, at 91.24% marked biking as an activity they use the path, followed by:
- Hike: 56.86%
- Walk the dog: 45.46%
- Commute: 38.08%
- Run: 35.86%

Again, a majority called out **bike** as their **most frequent activity (Q7)** at 59.11%, followed by **hike** at 14.32% and **commute** at 11.06%.

64.98% of participants are aware of **the speed limits on the Rio Grande bike trail (Q8)** while 35.02% were not.

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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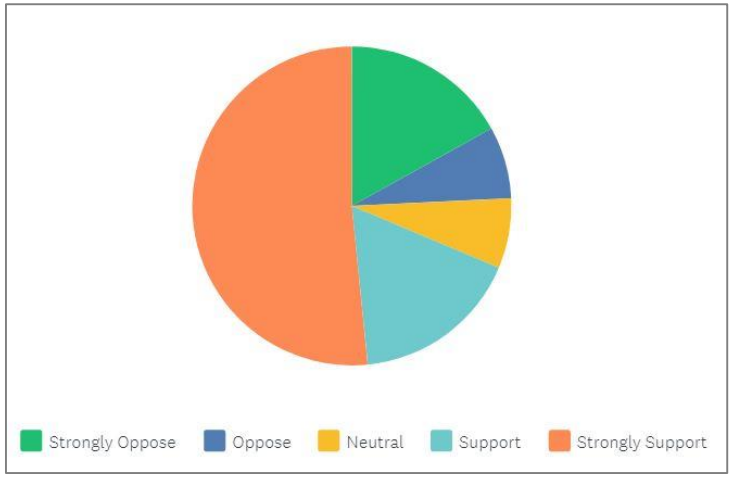
(Q9) Class 1 opinion:

Public opinion regarding class 1 usage shows strong support at 51.59%, support at 17.06% = **68.65%.** Strong opposition is 16.95%, opposition at 7.31% = **24.26%. 7.10%** survey participants were neutral.



STRONGLY OPPOSE	OPPOSE	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	TOTAL
16.95% 160	7.31% 69	7.10% 67	17.06% 161	51.59% 487	944

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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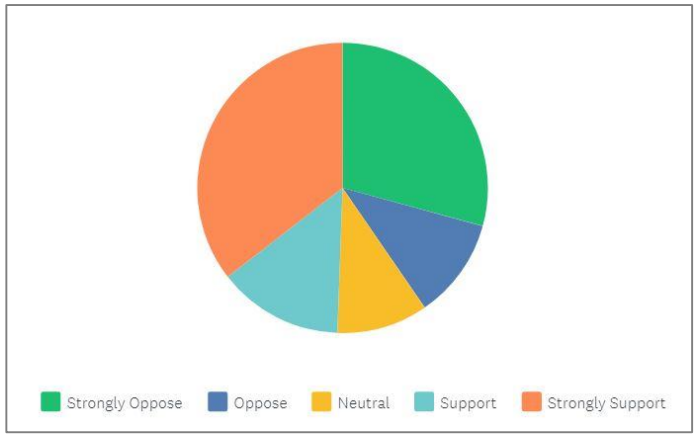
(Q10) Class 2 opinion:

Public opinion gathered regarding class 2 usage outcome is much closer, with a slightly higher percentage in support: with strong support at 35.48%, support at 13.94% = **49.42%.** Strong opposition is 29.25%, opposition at 11.19% **= 40.44%.** With **10.14%** survey participants indicating neutral.



STRONGLY OPPOSE	OPPOSE	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	TOTAL
29.25% 277	11.19% 106	10.14% 96	13.94% 132	35.48% 336	947

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

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(Q9) (Q10) class opinion, per residence:

Aspen: 203

Class 1		Class 2
33	Strongly Oppose	54
19	Oppose	23
11	Neutral	24
27	Support	34
111	Strongly Support	68

Snowmass Village: 85

Class 1		Class 2
19	Strongly Oppose	28
5	Oppose	11
3	Neutral	3
8	Support	8
50	Strongly Support	34

Old Snowmass: 12

Class 1		Class 2
3	Strongly Oppose	4
	Oppose	2
	Neutral	1
2	Support	
7	Strongly Support	5

Woody Creek: 17

Class 1		Class 2
3	Strongly Oppose	8
0	Oppose	2
3	Neutral	3
5	Support	2
6	Strongly Support	2

Pitkin County: 23

Class 1		Class 2
6	Strongly Oppose	8
1	Oppose	2
3	Neutral	3
3	Support	4
10	Strongly Support	5

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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(Q9) (Q10) class opinion, per residence:

Basalt: 64

Class 1		Class 2
5	Strongly Oppose	12
3	Oppose	8
4	Neutral	4
14	Support	11
37	Strongly Support	27

El Jebel: 35

Class 1		Class 2
6	Strongly Oppose	17
2	Oppose	2
5	Neutral	4
6	Support	4
16	Strongly Support	8

Carbondale: 178

Class 1		Class 2
38	Strongly Oppose	68
17	Oppose	27
14	Neutral	25
40	Support	20
68	Strongly Support	37

Eagle County: 9

Class 1		Class 2
2	Strongly Oppose	2
	Oppose	1
	Neutral	
1	Support	3
6	Strongly Support	3

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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(Q9) (Q10) class opinion, per residence:

Glenwood Springs: 169

Class 1		Class 2
33	Strongly Oppose	57
13	Oppose	16
15	Neutral	15
32	Support	20
74	Strongly Support	61

New Castle: 33

Class 1		Class 2
4	Strongly Oppose	3
	Oppose	3
2	Neutral	3
5	Support	5
21	Strongly Support	18

Silt: 9

Class 1		Class 2
	Strongly Oppose	
1	Oppose	1
	Neutral	
2	Support	5
6	Strongly Support	3

Rifle: 7

Class 1		Class 2
1	Strongly Oppose	2
1	Oppose	1
	Neutral	
1	Support	1
4	Strongly Support	3

Unincorporated Garfield County: 21

Class 1		Class 2
3	Strongly Oppose	5
1	Oppose	4
3	Neutral	3
4	Support	3
10	Strongly Support	6

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OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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(Q9) (Q10) class opinion, per residence:

Elsewhere in Colorado: 68

Class 1		Class 2
1	Strongly Oppose	2
2	Oppose	1
1	Neutral	3
8	Support	11
54	Strongly Support	51

Outside Colorado: 8

Class 1		Class 2
1	Strongly Oppose	3
3	Oppose	1
1	Neutral	1
0	Support	
3	Strongly Support	3

III. PUBLIC INPUT THEMES

OVERVIEW PER QUESTION*

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(Q11-12) on the survey asked if contributors would be more likely to use the trails for commuting purposes and recreational purposes if e-bikes were allowed.

The answers were divided almost in half (removing neutral responses) with just a few more saying chances of recreational would not increase if e-bikes were allowed, and the opposite, with a bit higher percentage indicating that it would increase chances of using the trail for transportation purposes.

(Q13) on the survey asked if contributors would comment or explain their answers on the use of e-bikes on paved trails.

Of the 952 surveys, 662 submitted comments, see Exhibit A.

**no question was mandatory, so some skipped, thus not all answers sum to: 952, or to totals per category*

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Summary Prepared By: Mavis Fitzgerald, PR STUDIO

April 26, 2018

Exhibits Attached