

## **Is an eBike in Your Future?**

I realize you are likely an experienced road cyclist who enjoys the challenges and benefits of endurance training. So do I. That being said, I am comfortable in predicting an eBike will likely be in your future. There are a variety of reasons which will push each of us in that direction.

You may have heard sales of eBikes are exploding worldwide. It is an extension of the dramatic over 300% increase in bicycle use in the age 60-79 demographic which began over a decade ago. The COVID crisis caused eBike sales in U.S. to explode by 70%. It is predicted over 120 million eBikes will be sold in the next 3 years. Already in the Netherlands, eBike sales surpassed traditional bikes in 2018.

I was amazed to read in several places that 28% of eBike sales are now to people intending to use it in lieu of an automobile. Part of this is being driven by a desire to reduce carbon emissions. Many people have a more practical reason. They want to reduce their transportation costs and actually enjoy the time they spend running traditional errands or commuting to work.

You might wonder who is leading this transformation. Rad Power Bikes is a hugely popular brand made in California. The sweet cost spot of their popular models is about \$1500. They report 82% of their customers are between 45 and 84. They offer a variety of models from touring, commuting and utility bikes. I would suspect there are not a huge number of first time traditional bicycle buyers in their 70's, let alone their mid 80's.

So why are eBikes so popular? First, they are fun. They put a smile on your face. People ride them more often than they were

riding their existing bicycle and they are riding further. The eBike is being used to replace their car as much as possible. This makes perfect sense when you see statistics showing 35% of our trips in the car are less than 2 miles. One survey revealed eBike users replaced 46% of their car commutes and 30% of their driving errands.

Driving eBike popularity is the downward trend in prices for relatively good quality equipment. This is the result of increased competition, the development of lighter, longer lasting batteries and better motors. While they are perceived as being much easier to ride, the cardio benefit is still significant. You may work less but do it more often and over a longer distance. They are immensely practical and can be ridden virtually anywhere when properly configured. They smooth out the hills, allow older riders to keep up with friends and extend their range.

They will dramatically enhance the transformation of our urban cores from being auto centric to bicycle centric. Market Street in San Francisco is a leading example of what the future holds.

Given these dynamics, it is only a question of when, not if, most of us will at least add an eBike to our stable. We have a video on our website which features additional information on this topic which you can view [here](#).

*Jim Dodson is an experienced bicycle accident lawyer, cyclist and bicycle safety advocate who has been representing accident victims for over 25 years. Although his primary office is in Clearwater, he represents injury victims throughout Florida. He is the author of the [Florida Bicycle Accident Handbook](#) which answers the most commonly asked questions by injured cyclists. If you have questions about a Florida cycling accident this valuable resource is available to you absolutely free of charge at [www.jimdodsonlaw.com](http://www.jimdodsonlaw.com).*

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