PortAuthority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (August 30, 2021) - Electric bicycles will be permitted inside light rail vehicles and the Monongahela Incline beginning Wednesday, September 1, Port Authority announced today.

This policy reverses a longstanding rule that prohibited riders from bringing electric bicycles inside any Port Authority vehicle because of their potentially dangerous batteries.

"We're really glad to have heard from so many people, particularly Bike Pittsburgh, after we recently reminded riders of our e-bike policy," said Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman. "The original policy was crafted with our customers' safety in mind. Since then, the construction, build quality, and safety of e-bikes have come a long way, and there have been very few if any incidents involving e-bikes inside public transit vehicles."

"E-bikes help extend our network into communities where our vehicles don't go and further our mission of connecting people to life," Kelleman said.

Beginning September 1, battery-powered bicycles will be allowed inside light rail vehicles when riders are traveling south of First Avenue Station.

They will also be permitted inside the Monongahela Incline and light rail vehicles when traveling within the Central Business District on a six-month pilot. Should there be no incidents during that time, they will be permitted within the Central Business District on a permanent basis.

"The trial period will help alleviate any concerns about their safety," said Burt Jennings, Port Authority's Chief Safety Officer.

The general rules about traditional bicycles will also apply to e-bikes. On buses, they are only permitted on the bike racks; on light rail vehicles, only two per car are permitted at a time; at the Monongahela Incline, they can only be transported in the upper compartment; and regardless of vehicle, mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities always have priority.

All of the rules concerning electric and traditional bicycles can be found at https://www.portauthority.org/bikesandscooters.

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