

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	February 3, 2025
Action Required:	Resolution to create a new fund and appropriate existing funds for e-bike programs
Presenter:	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
Staff Contacts:	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager Thomas Robert Safranek
Title:	Citywide Bicycle Infrastructure Program

Background

In 2024, Neighborhood Development Services and the Office of Sustainability partnered to develop a program around electric bicycles, to support mobility options and promote sustainable transportation. This program, which includes the recently launched pilot program that would put vouchers for e-bikes in the hands of City residents, is part of a larger effort to expand opportunities for biking to be a useful mode of transportation in Charlottesville. Major projects are underway and coming in the near-future that will be a part of that effort, coordinated with a strategy that aims to make travel choices in the community safer for all users.

Discussion

Promoting e-biking in Charlottesville is one method of expanding safe and reliable transportation options for residents. It supplements the Safer Streets Strategy, which is a multi-phase effort to deploy safety improvements, lower speed limits, and develop new citywide transportation plans and policies.

The first phase of this strategy provides safer facilities through on-going projects and new temporary tests, paired with lowered speed limits on local neighborhood streets. This approach will create a larger network of lower-stress opportunities for biking and walking. By promoting e-bike usage in the City, this lower-stress network is even more valuable and potentially impactful to new riders, as e-bikes provide an additional level of confidence and speed, particularly on hills.

The second phase of the Safer Streets Strategy will include both corridor-level restriping plans for Framework Streets (the larger arterials connecting neighborhoods) and development of a citywide transportation plan. Both represent opportunities to expand a network of protected biking facilities.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Promoting safe and reliable mode options for transportation is a key element of the City's strategic framework and comprehensive plan. Promoting e-bikes and building biking infrastructure directly support that goal.

Community Engagement

The e-bike voucher pilot has had over 1,000 residents sign-up. NDS has worked extensively with internal and external partners to promote the program, including an e-bike demonstration event in the Ting Pavilion.

Many opportunities will be available over the course of the next few years for the public to be engaged in transportation planning around biking. Much of this work will be developed in partnership with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, which is open to all residents.

Budgetary Impact

There is no impact to the General Fund, as the e-bike pilot programs is funded with existing funds.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the resolution to appropriate existing funds into a new fund dedicated to e-bike programs.

Alternatives

If funds are not appropriated to a new e-bike program, NDS and Office of Sustainability will continue to collaborate and operate the program through existing fund centers.

Attachments

1. E-bike fund resolution \$150,000