

A wide-angle, aerial photograph of Charlottesville, Virginia during sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the city. In the foreground, the iconic Rotunda building of the University of Virginia is visible, surrounded by green lawns and trees. To the left, a train track with several cars is visible. In the center, a large, modern building with a red brick facade and a white roof is prominent. The background shows a dense urban area with numerous buildings, roads, and parking lots, all bathed in the warm light of the setting sun. The sky is a deep blue, transitioning to orange and yellow near the horizon.

*Charlottesville*

## E-bike Voucher Program Update

February 2, 2026

# Summary of 2025



## Program Metrics:

- 4,089 program applications
- 112 vouchers granted
- 91 E-bikes purchased

## Community Members Served:

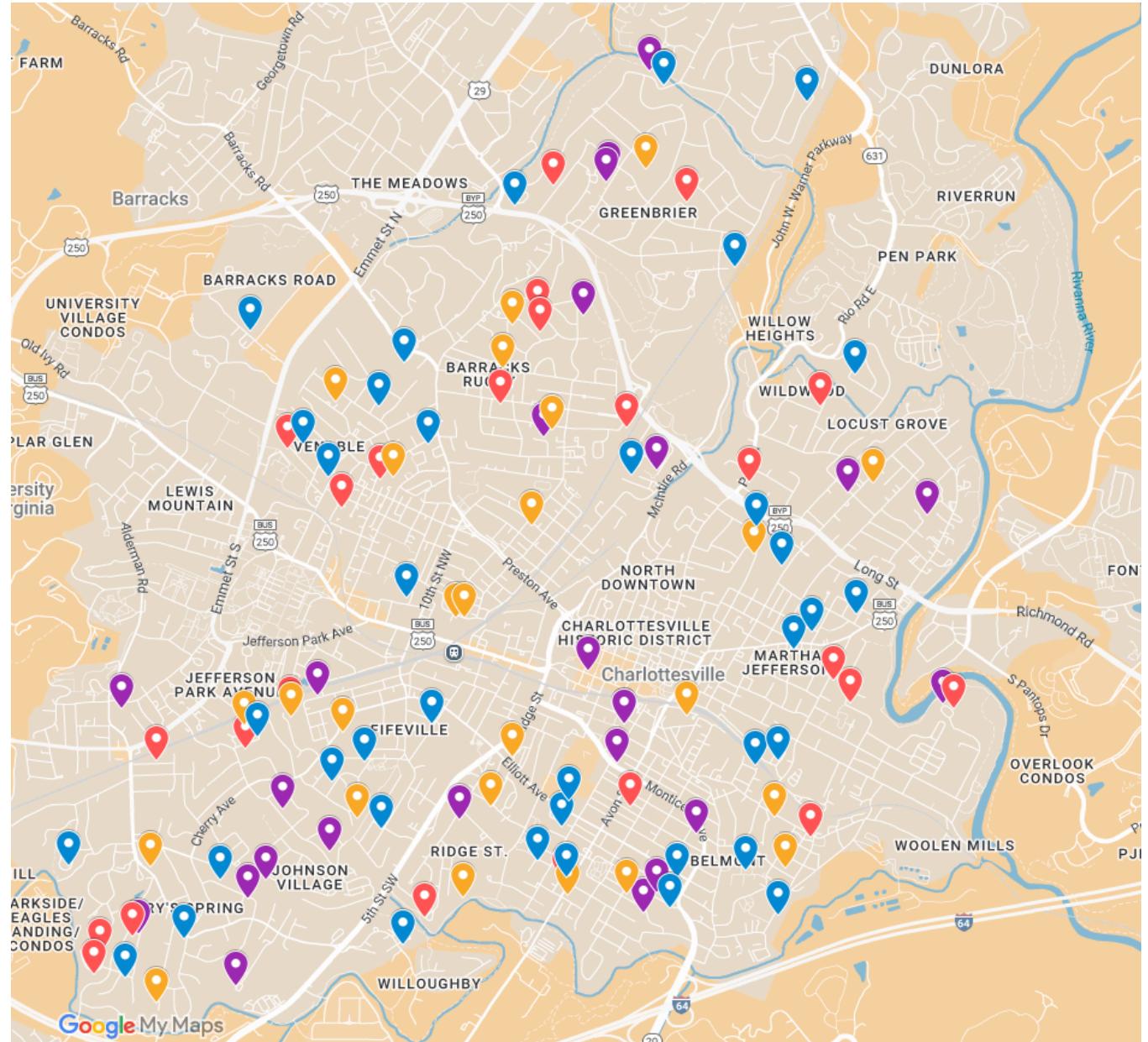
- 4 – new to biking
- 48 – some experience
- 34 – very experienced



# Success Stories

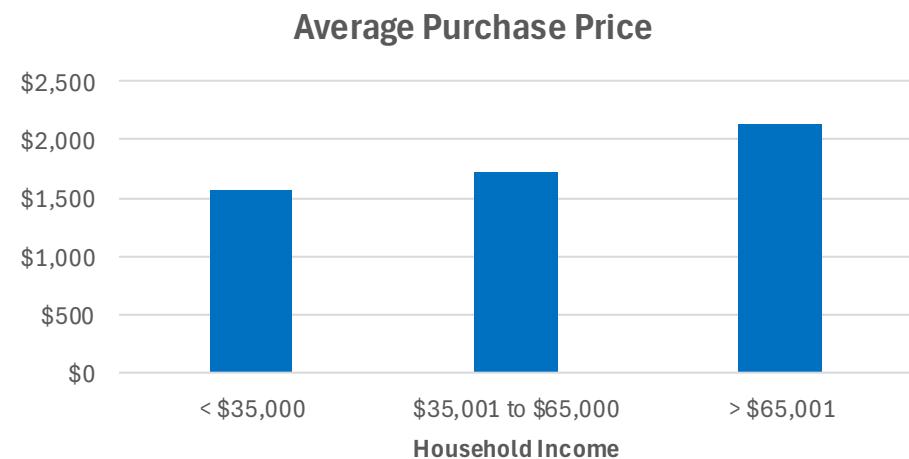
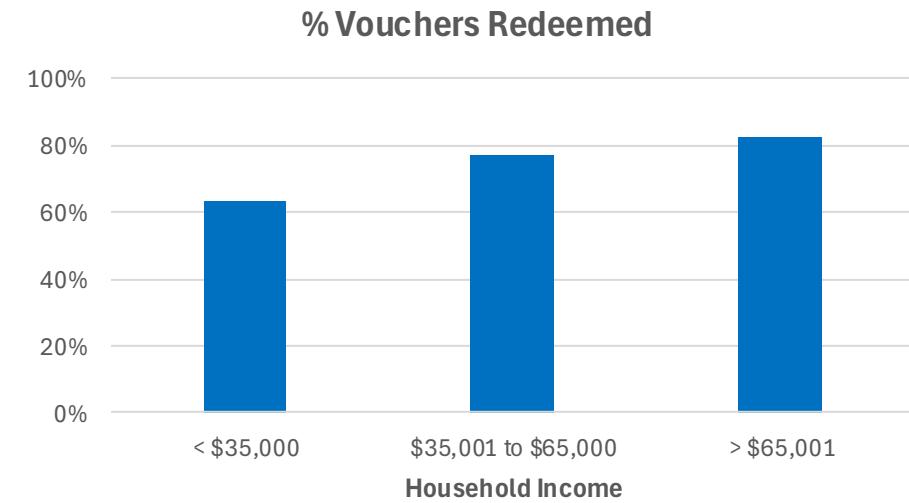
- The voucher recipients have been evenly distributed across the City
- 4 recipients live in public housing
- 5 are schoolteachers
- 34 women are new e-bike owners
- At least 5 are carless and several others have downsized

**This program has increased our credibility and significantly helped to promote our other biking and walking programs/projects.**



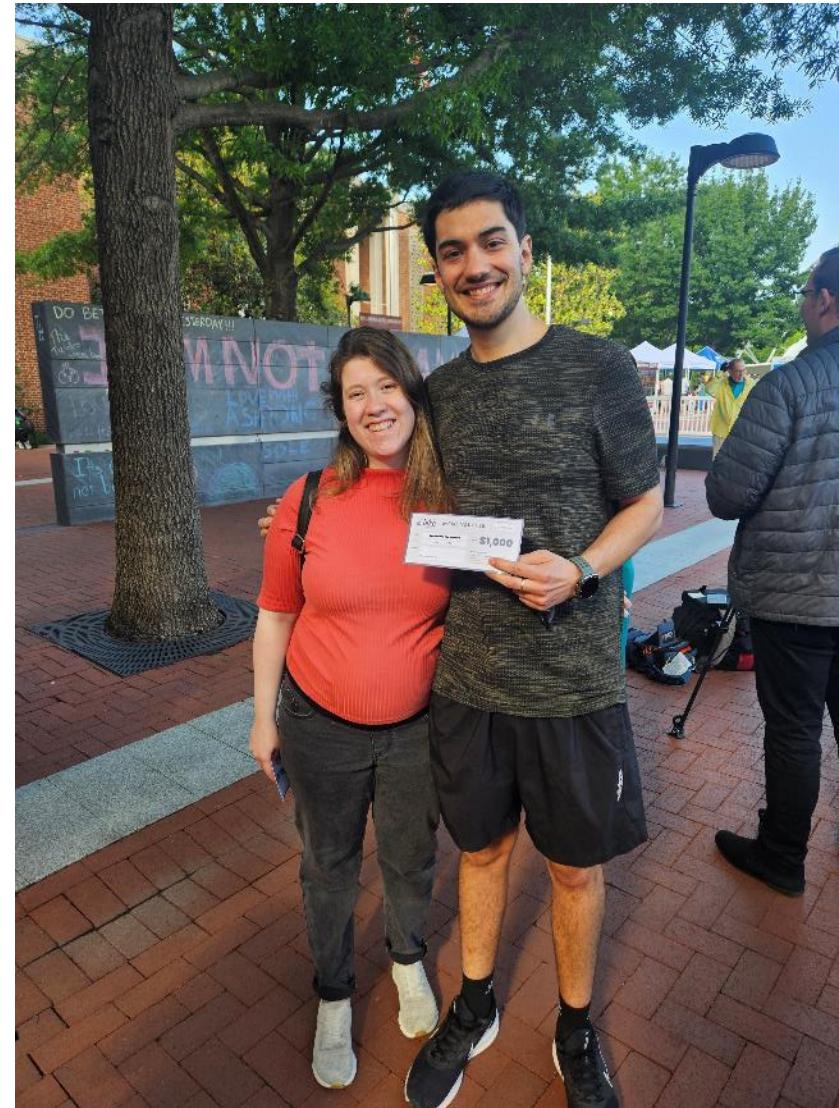
# Equity in the E-bike Voucher Program

- Initial program goals sought to ensure the program benefits residents at all household income levels
  - 2025 Voucher program entailed flat voucher amount, no adjustments for income levels
  - Voucher redemption rates and purchase amounts were lower in lower income brackets
  - Staff heard anecdotally from several lower-income recipients that voucher amount was inadequate
- 2026 program includes new, tiered approach

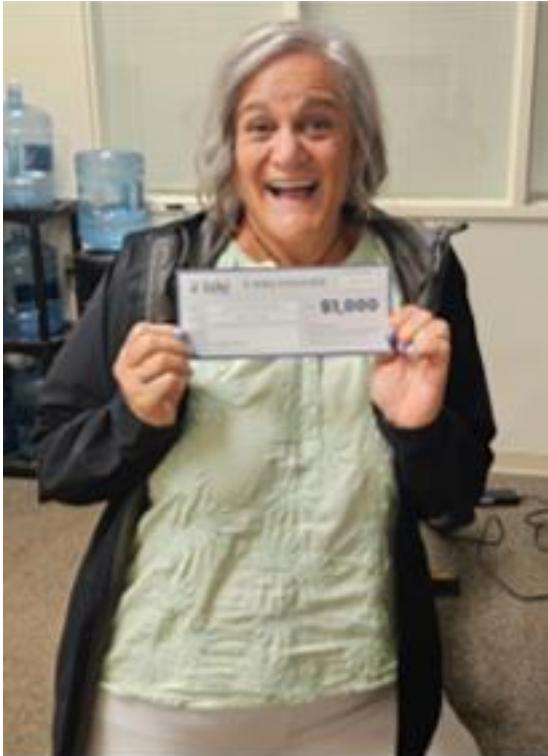


# Program Changes for 2026

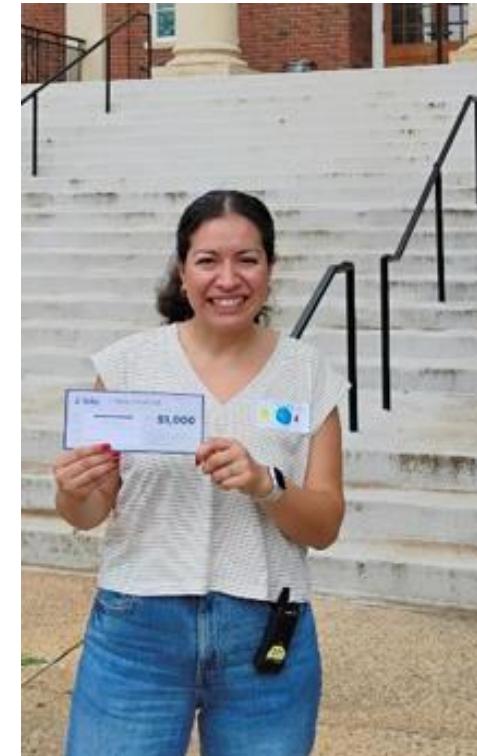
- 3 Voucher Tiers
  - \$500, open to all income levels
  - \$1000, < 80% AMI
  - \$1500, recipients of government assistance (SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid)
- All voucher recipients offered free helmet and lock
- Voucher program moved to Connect Charlottesville platform
- Planning to issue 144 vouchers (compared to 100 in 2025)



# Expectations and Goals for 2026



- By making these changes we expect to better support community members that need transportation help the most while also getting more folks out of cars and onto bikes.
- While many strategies are needed to make Charlottesville a **Bike Friendly Community**, this program will help get us there.
- E-bikes can be transformative for the individual but also for the community at large by reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.



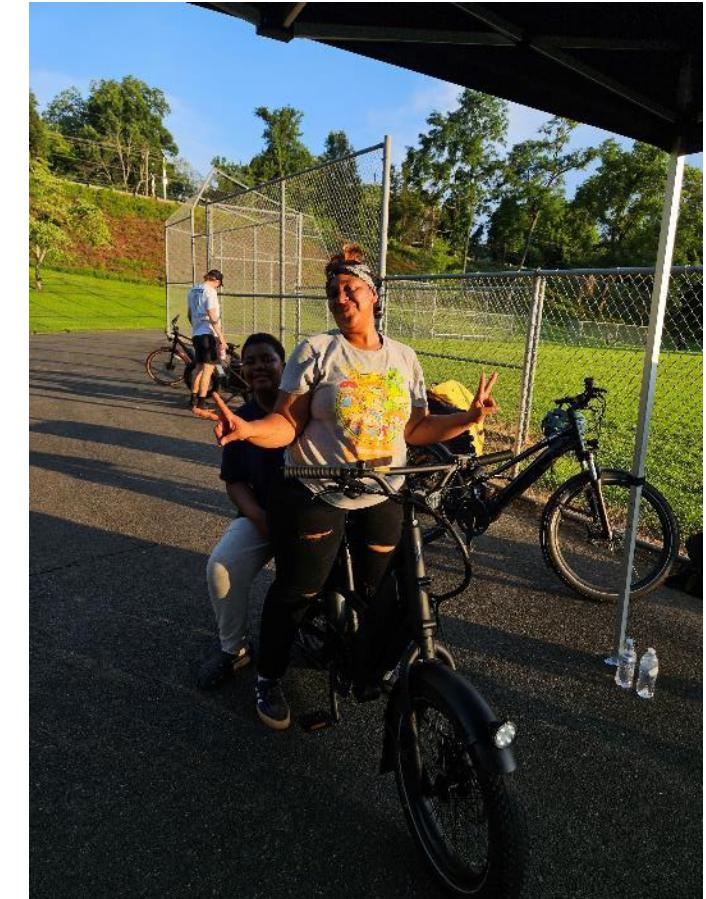
# Recommendations

Last year City Council approved \$150,000 from the two funding sources below for this pilot program.

With \$50,000 currently remaining in the E-bike Voucher Pilot Fund, staff recommends that Council appropriate \$100,000 from existing funds to reset the available amount, with

- \$50,000 Climate Action Initiative Fund - this program is to help the City reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.
- \$50,000 Dockless Mobility Fund – these funds come from Veo's permit fees

**This re-appropriation will allow for the voucher pilot to continue through the end of 2026 with more vouchers and more equitable opportunities for access to e-bikes**





[www.CvilleEbike.com](http://www.CvilleEbike.com)

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