



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:

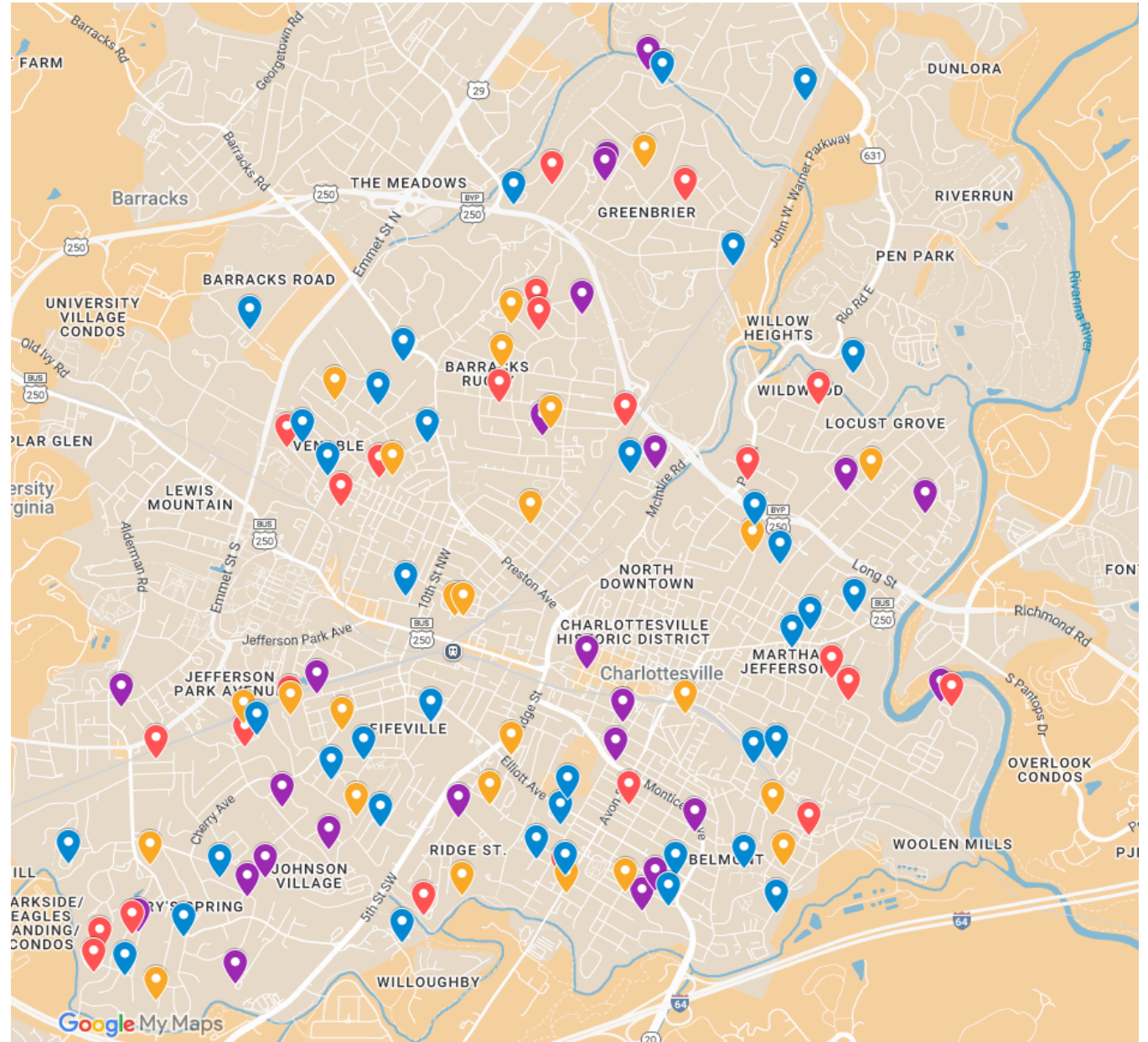
- 4 – new to biking
- 48 – some experience
- 34 – very experienced



Success Stories

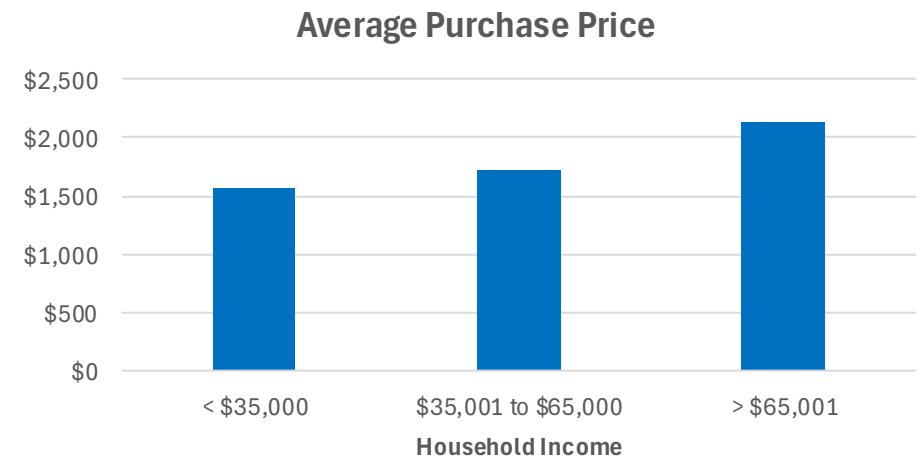
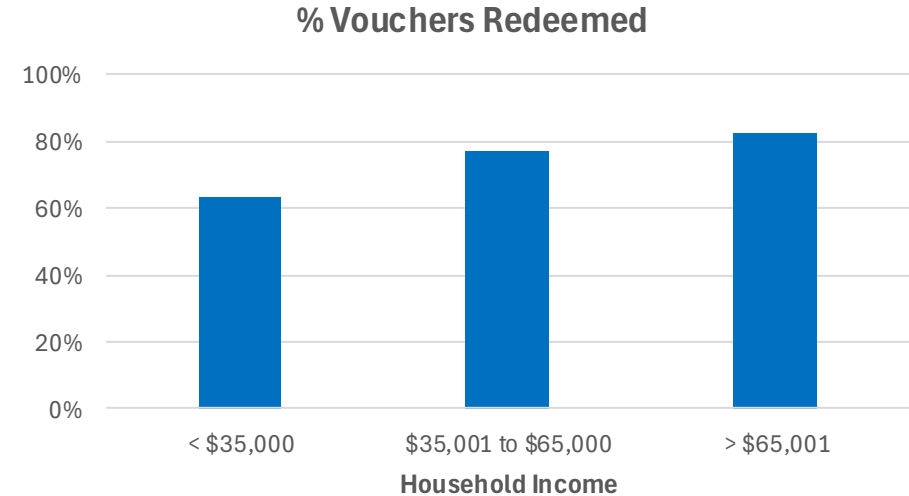
- The voucher recipients have been evenly distributed across the City
- 4 recipients live in public housing
- 5 are schoolteachers
- 34 women are new e-bike owners
- At least 5 are carless and several others have downsized

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.



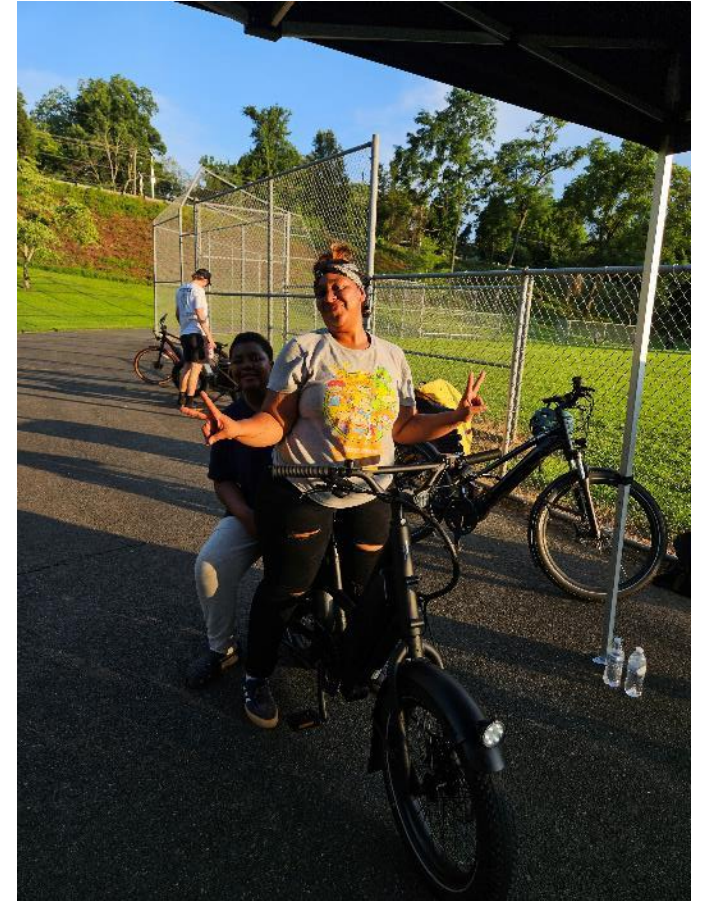
Recommendations

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

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