

E-Bike Purchase/Subsidy Program

The purpose of an e-bike subsidy program is to offer a financial incentive for increasing the use of electric bicycles by subsidizing the purchase or bike-share costs of the bicycles. Increasing ownership or availability of e-bikes is one component of Transportation Demand Management to encourage more non-automobile travel in San Mateo County.



What is an e-bike?

Electric bicycles (“e-bikes”) are motorized bicycles with an integrated electric motor using rechargeable batteries to assist with propulsion. E-bikes are categorized in one of three classes based on the maximum speed and whether it has a throttle. All types retain the ability for the rider to pedal and are not electric motorcycles or mopeds.



	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓
Throttle		✓	
Max Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

Who is Eligible?

There are different options for determining a programs’ eligibility, such as:

- Open to all residents** – no validation needed.
- Residents of certain neighborhoods** (e.g. Equity Priority Areas).
- Commuters** – a commitment letter to use the e-bike for commuting purposes a certain number of days a week.
- Low-income residents** – proof of enrollment in a EBT program or other social service program, tax returns.
- School-age children** – may be linked to safe routes to school programs.

Additional State and Local Support (for Ownership)

\$10M California e-bike subsidy program available starting July 2022 for low-income Californians. The Electric Bicycle Incentive Program will be administered by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Program details are still under development as of March 2022.



California Clean Cars 4 All program, through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) offers incentives up to \$7500 for low-income people to replace their older, polluting vehicles with electric vehicles, including e-bikes.



Peninsula Clean Energy is San Mateo County’s electricity provider. A sponsor could partner with PCE for administering an e-bike subsidy. The program and details can be viewed here:



<https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/ebikes/>

E-bike Subsidy Example: Bike Share

Through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Bike Share Capitol Program, a fleet of 300 e-bikes will be distributed along at SMART (Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit) stations and at popular locations in cities along the corridor through the SMART Rail + Bike Share in Marin and Sonoma County grant. If the program is popular with commuters, there is an option to add 50 more e-bikes.

More information [here](#).



E-bike Subsidy Example: Ownership

In Pueblo County, Colorado, the county, in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office, purchased 42 e-bikes for low-income essential workers.

The goal of the program is for the e-bikes to act as reliable, consistent transportation for working people who may not be able to afford a car or who cannot rely on the city's public transportation.

More information [here](#).



E-bike Subsidy Example: Loan Library

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) launched a program in 2021 that would allow residents or workers in the County to sign up for an e-bike demo called the "EZ Bike Project".

A variety of e-bikes are made available for reservation for up to 6 days so users can experience what it would be like to make an e-bike part of their daily travel.

More information [here](#).



Distribution Models (for Ownership)

There are several options for distributing e-bikes to program participants. Each option relies on a different administrative model that agencies should take into consideration.

- 1. Lower Administration Effort - Agency purchase:** The sponsoring agency eligible program participants to sign-up and purchases e-bikes in bulk directly from a local bicycle shop (preferable) and distributes the e-bikes to eligible program participants or the bike shop can have approved participants pick up the bikes directly, when available. Program rules can pre-set which e-bike models are eligible for purchase in the program.
- 2. Higher Administration Effort - Participant purchase:** The sponsoring agency issues rebates to program participants who purchase pre-selected eligible e-bike models, preferably from local bicycle shops. This model works when an agency may cover only a portion of the e-bike cost. Rebates from the agency can be in the form of reimbursement checks, gift cards, or other methods that would need to be tracked by the agency.



Stay Informed

We want to hear from you! Visit our website or follow us on one of our social platforms for the latest updates.

www.smcta.com

info@smcta.com

[TransportationAuthority](#)

[PeninsulaMoves](#)