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:

- 1. Open to all residents no validation needed.
- 2. 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.
- **4.** Low-income residents proof of enrollment in a EBT program or other social service program, tax returns.
- **5.** 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:

PENINSULA CLEAN ENERGY

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



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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-Marin 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.

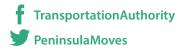


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reimbursement checks, gift cards, or other methods







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 preselected 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



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