



Position / Policy Name: Support for Electric Bike Incentives

Committee Name: Transportation & Land Use

Requirements

- Position/Policy Statement (up to 280 characters)
- Position/Policy Justification (up to 350 words)
- Board Proposal (up to 350 words)
- Reference Page

Signatures

Approving Committee Chair

George Sirianni  4/5/22
Printed Name / Signature / Date

Governance Committee Chair

Shawn Youngblood 4/5/22
Printed Name / Signature / Date

Executive Committee Chair

Shawn Youngblood 4/11/22
Printed Name / Signature / Date

Board of Directors Chair

Shawn Youngblood 4/18/22
Printed Name / Signature / Date

Sustainable Tallahassee

Electric Bike Incentives Policy Statement

Proposed statement: Sustainable Tallahassee supports the City of Tallahassee's adoption of a rebate and finance program for the purchase of e-bikes.

The use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) promotes the utilization of a transportation option that is powered by electricity and human power, rather than fossil fuel. This is consistent with the city's position on renewable energy.

There is precedence for e-bikes being a part of our transportation system (see Sustainable Tallahassee Multimodal Transportation Position Statement).

E-bikes can greatly reduce transportation related pollution in our community. The burning of petroleum to power vehicles, (cars, motorcycles, trucks) produces approximately 29% of the total greenhouse gas emissions nationally (1). Transportation is the second greatest source of air pollution and it is the fastest growing source (5) of carbon dioxide emissions globally (2).

The city of Tallahassee's Smart Energy Plus Program offers many rebate and finance options to reduce carbon emissions from our homes and buildings, e.g., for window replacement, attic insulation, and the purchase of energy star appliances. The city offers no comparable incentive program for energy efficient modes of transportation such as electric bicycles (e-bikes).

Advantages of e-bikes as an energy efficient transportation option:

- E-bikes are the most energy-efficient form of motorized transport. They can go 1,000 or more miles on the electricity produced by one gallon of fossil fuel (3).
- The average automobile produces 890 lbs. of CO₂ per 1,000 miles, an e-bike produces less than 19 lbs. of CO₂ per 1,000 miles (3).
- Approximately 30% of all trips are three miles or less and nearly 60% are five miles or less (4). An e-bike is a perfect option for many of these trips - to work, school, a shopping area, etc.

An expansion of e-bike usage can help the city achieve its goal of reducing carbon emissions 100% by 2050.

References

- (1) <https://www.epa.gov/transportation-air-pollution-and-climate-change/carbon-pollution-transportation>
- (2) <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/Transport-and-health/data-and-statistics/air-pollution-and-climate-change2>
- (3) <https://www.climateaction.center/e-bike-studies>
- (4) https://nhts.ornl.gov/tables09/fatcat/2009/vt_TRPMILES.html
- (5) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/08/14/urban-transport-and-climate-change>

Electric Bike Incentives Policy Statement

Board Proposal

How does this position fulfill our mission to make Tallahassee more sustainable?

It promotes the utilization of a transportation option that is powered by electricity and human power, rather than fossil fuel. This is consistent with the city's position on renewable energy.

What is the expected short- and long-term impact of the issue as it relates to Tallahassee?

The short-term and long-term impacts of increasing e-bike utilization through a city sponsored rebate and finance program are favorable for Tallahassee and Leon County. The potential reduction in the burning of fossil fuels will have long-term effects on our community and the environment. Improved health, lowered transportation costs, and assistance to income disadvantaged residents will be likely short-term outcomes of this "active transportation" mode.

What opportunities are there for Sustainable Tallahassee to participate?

Advocating for acceptance of the e-bike rebate and finance concept during decision-making by the staff of the City of Tallahassee's Smart Energy PLUS program as well as seeking support from members of the city Commission.

What is the level of support and opposition in the local community?

There is no known opposition to the concept of a city sponsored e-bike rebate and finance program. Most residents agree that our transportation system needs to include multiple modes that are accessible to populations across a broad range of ages, physical abilities and incomes. The two bike shops that sell e-bikes in town are in favor of the rebate and finance concept and view it as a strong incentive for the purchase and utilization of an e-bike.

What are the potential benefits or consequences to Sustainable Tallahassee for supporting this issue?

Don't know of any negative consequences, only positive benefits.

What due diligence have you done to make this request for Board approval?

The Transportation and Land Use Committee reviewed and approved the policy statement that will be submitted to the staff of the City of Tallahassee's Smart Energy PLUS program.