



January 30, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## **FAVORABLE - HB0156 Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Bikemore is writing on behalf of our more than 5,000 engaged constituents and the hundreds of thousands of Baltimoreans who walk, bike, and take transit in support of HB0156.

E-bikes expand access to mobility for all, with research from the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center showing that they are especially critical in making biking more accessible to disabled people, older adults, and people that struggle with the force needed to ride a regular bike.<sup>1</sup>

Between 2019 and 2022, E-bike sales increased by 270%, representing over \$1 billion in sales and even surpassing electric car sales in 2021. Despite this, no rebate or voucher program exists to subsidize their purchase, despite subsidy of the purchase of electric motor vehicles.

In Baltimore City, nearly a third of households lack access to a car, and a majority of renters lack access to a car. These residents need access to opportunity, and first and last mile connections to high frequency transit or the ability to independently commute to work may be the difference between escaping poverty or losing everything. Even with subsidy, the electric motor vehicle market is out of reach financially for most Baltimoreans. But with subsidy, E-bikes are within reach for many.

Subsidy in the form of rebates and vouchers, which many jurisdictions are adopting across the country, is proven to expand access to and encourage reliable use of E-bikes, especially amongst individuals with lower incomes.

We encourage Maryland to follow these successes across the country and help expand access to opportunity through creation of an Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program.

Therefore, we encourage a favorable report on HB0156.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jed Weeks".

**Jed Weeks**  
**Executive Director**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://mobilitydevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SMI\\_NADTC\\_research\\_report.pdf](https://mobilitydevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SMI_NADTC_research_report.pdf)