



HB0156 –Electric Bicycle Rebate & Voucher Program

House Environment & Transportation Committee

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Position: FAVORABLE

Greetings Chair and Members of the Committee

[Frederick Bicycle Coalition](#) represents a broad spectrum of recreational, commuter, mountain and adaptive cyclists. Our mission is to work with government, organizations, and individuals to promote increased and safe access for bicyclists and others in Frederick County. We have over 1,700 followers on Facebook.

E-bikes boost mobility, are far greener than electric vehicles (EVs), and are more affordable than any type of car. E-bikes open up bicycling as an option for commuting, shopping, running errands, and taking children to school. They make bicycling possible in hilly areas and for long distance trips that aren't feasible on a conventional bike. E-bikes help to reduce road congestion as they often replace car transportation.

Subsidies, in the form of rebates and purchase vouchers, make e-bikes affordable for individuals with financial challenges, so we particularly like HB 156's focus on Maryland residents whose income falls below a threshold or who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Many jurisdictions around the county have now established an e-bike purchase subsidy program, including the District of Columbia, in 2023. The Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) provides a very helpful survey of [E-Bike Incentive Programs in North America](#) on their website.

On the environmental front, the article ["8 New Insights From Denver's EBike Incentive Program"](#) provides helpful stats on Denver's experience, quoting an analysts who states, "The success of the Denver rebate program—and its clear impact on reducing transportation emissions—suggests that policymakers need to take e-bikes much more seriously as a climate action tool."

The General Assembly has a unique opportunity to make e-bikes affordable for Marylanders with modest financial resources, boosting equitable, green mobility at very modest cost to the state.

Frederick Bicycle Coalition urges a FAVORABLE HB0156 committee report and House floor vote.