



City of Tigard

February 10, 2022

Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
RE: Support for HB 2571 E-Bike Incentive Bill

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Bobby Levy, Emerson Levy, and other members of the committee,

The Tigard Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC), comprised of thirteen Tigard residents, supports HB 2571, the proposed E-Bike Incentive Bill. Our committee is charged with advising city staff and elected officials on a broad range of transportation issues within our community. We are tasked to ensure that our transportation system, facilities, and investments serve all members of our community regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel. TTAC members have been very involved in the development and adoption of Tigard's Complete Streets policy (2019), and the 2040 Transportation System Plan (2022). This work clearly documents our city's Strategic Vision: An equitable community that is walkable, healthy and accessible for everyone.

Increasing access to alternative modes of transportation is a vital part of the city's vision. The latest example of Tigard's commitment is a recent grant the city received from Portland General Electric (PGE). The PGE Drive Change Grant will support the purchase and deployment of shared e-bikes at two multifamily affordable housing facilities in Tigard's neighborhoods. With significant technological advancements in recent years, e-bikes are a promising solution to urban mobility challenges.

A statewide e-bike incentive program would complement the work Tigard is doing to reduce the impact of transportation on our climate. The establishment of a program for providing rebates to qualifying individuals who purchase electric assisted bicycles or cargo electric bicycles and qualifying equipment would result in a profound increase in the number of such vehicles on our roads. In Tigard, as in many cities throughout Oregon, our land-use patterns, built environment, and our hilly topography make utilitarian trips (e.g. commuting, transporting children, shopping) by pedal-power alone impractical for most. To effectively use a bicycle for utilitarian purposes, and thus reduce the number of cars on our roads, most people need the motorized assistance provided by an e-bike.

We ask that you support this bill and also ensure a future program is inclusive of motorized three wheel bikes to offer this benefit to seniors and people with disabilities. Almost certainly, most Oregonians will continue to use motor vehicles for their utilitarian needs, but these citizens will also benefit from this program, because every bike on the road means there is one less car in their lane.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ruth Harshfield
TTAC Chairperson