

Submitter: Jessica Youngberg  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963

I am writing in support of the ebike credit because I want more people to be able to access the freedom my ebike gives me. I am an avid--if timid--cyclist who prefers to ride on greenways and quiet streets. I bought a L1 e-bike because I have an old knee injury impacting my endurance, and I moved further from the core of the city than I was previously. My ebike is a game changer. Trips I would normally drive or bus because I feared getting too tired on the way home were doable, even on a weeknight. I could get to events more quickly because I could ride at a more consistent speed. Riding on busier streets (in the bike lane) became less scary because the differential between the arterial and my speed was lessened. When you're going 10 mph or less, even a 25 mph car can be terrifyingly fast. I very rarely ride faster than 15 mph and that is enough to make me feel like I'm part of the traffic flow, not a turtle about to be squished. That's even more useful when trying to cross a street: it's similar to being able to cross as an able-bodied solitary adult pedestrian and having to escort a toddler. Groceries are easier to lug home, hills are flatter, it's everything I like about biking without the knee pain.

It's a big chunk of change up front. Cheaper bikes have their own costs. They're heavy, which means they're harder to carry up stairs of an apartment, or even maneuver at a bike rack. They're also not necessarily made as well. Yes, you want your motor and battery to be up to the task and long-lasting. You also want your other components like brakes to stand up to the stressors of being on an ebike. \$1200 is a reasonable voucher, because it gives enough wiggle room to have more than just one or two options, and might even leave room for a good helmet. My knee injury was exacerbated by a garage sale bike that didn't fit me. Having the financial freedom to shop around for bikes that fit me has made a huge difference in how much I actually enjoy biking.

I also have an electric car. Being able to defray the cost of the EV with federal and local credits was a big driver in that purchase. EVs are not the panacea and the climate solution that the companies tout. It's silly that we can get money to add another car to the road but we don't have incentives to swap even a single trip for a bike or bus. An ebike credit would help bring that mobility and freedom to more people. I am in support of an ebike credit.