



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 17, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: HB 2963

Position: Support

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and committee members:

I am writing in support of HB 2963, on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

HB 2963 would create an electric bicycle rebate program for providing rebate vouchers to qualifying individuals who purchase electric assisted bicycles.

OAPA support for HB 2963 stems from policy priorities to “promote safe and equitable transportation systems” and “confront climate change and its impacts”.

Enactment of HB 2963 promotes access to e-bikes providing an affordable, reliable, and sustainable travel option across the state. This will greatly expand who can use active transportation, with promising results for increasing a mode shift to a zero-emission travel mode. We note that this program is carefully designed to reach those most in need of financial support.

Increasing access to e-bikes contributes to climate change, eases congestion, and helps non-drivers stay connected to places that provide their daily needs, while also promoting improved connectivity within suburban, rural, and exurban areas. Traveling by e-bike also contributes to community health.

E-bike rebate programs are a proven concept. We note, for example, that in 2023 the city of Bend received grant funding for an e-bike voucher program for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. There were over 600 applications for 75 vouchers indicating a significant need. OAPA believes a similar program at the state level could greatly benefit some of our most transportation challenged residents.

Thank you for your consideration of OAPA testimony on HB 2693. Investing in increased access to e-bikes will provide mobility, economic, climate and community resiliency benefits for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Harker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan Harker, AICP

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

www.oregonapa.org