



Office of the City Manager

February 28, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Re: Berkeley Electric Bike Equity Project Final Report

The Planning and Development Department's Office of Energy & Sustainable Development is pleased to share the Berkeley Electric Bike Equity Project (BEEP) final report. BEEP was a pilot project of the Council-funded Climate Equity Fund, designed to provide electric mobility access to low-to-moderate income residents, reflect community priorities, and support sustainable transportation mode shifts.

Local non-profit Waterside Workshops, with assistance from GRID Alternatives, developed and implemented BEEP using \$250,000 from the Climate Equity Fund. This electric bike (e-bike) program for income-qualified Berkeley households also included a youth education and workforce development program to service e-bikes and provide job training opportunities. With additional support from a UC Berkeley Chancellor's Grant, BEEP provided safety training and distributed 56 e-bikes to program recipients. Unlike other incentive programs that primarily seek to reduce the cost of e-bike ownership, BEEP employed a unique model that provided significant, ongoing support to participants throughout the one-year pilot. Some program highlights include:

- **134 Berkeley residents benefited** from the program including 114 residents using the e-bikes in the 56 BEEP households, and 20 Waterside Workshops interns who assembled and maintained the e-bikes.
- E-bike access led to **transportation mode shifts** for the majority of BEEP participants. 77% reported a decrease in use of a car or motor vehicle and 46% reported a decrease in use of ride hailing (i.e. Lyft, Uber, etc.).
- **69% of participants reported budget savings** on transportation costs. Participants saved an average of \$150 per year on fuel alone when replacing car miles with e-bike miles, and avoided nearly \$900 in total car ownership costs on average.

Please see the final report for more details, at <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BEEP%20Data%20Analysis%20Summary%20Report%20February%202025-reduced.pdf>

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Re: Berkeley Electric Bike Equity Project Final Report

cc: Tasha Tervalon, Interim Deputy City Manager
Sharon Friedrichsen, Interim Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Jordan Klein, Director, Planning and Development Department
Sarah Moore, Manager, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development