City and County of San Francisco



President, Board of Supervisors

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Board President Peskin Introduces E-Bike Incentive Program to Decrease Congestion and Promote Equity in Sustainable Family-friendly Transportation

San Francisco – Today, Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin introduced an ordinance creating a e-bike incentive program to make sustainable transportation more accessible, affordable and equitable for all San Franciscans. The ordinance, co-authored by Supervisor Dean Preston, was driven by a grassroots support from thousands of San Franciscans and crafted by diverse group of stakeholders.

The new legislation builds on the success of such programs in Denver Colorado, Austin, and many other jurisdictions, which have been shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, replace car trips, attract new regular bike users and reduce congestions especially at school drop offs. A pillar of local climate policy, this program will ensure that all San Franciscans can participate in this sustainable transportation option.

"I want to ensure that all San Francisco families, especially those underserved by transit, can access this sustainable way to drop off their kids at school, which makes all our children safer." Said **Board President Peskin.** "This is an important step toward an inclusive carbon-free future."

"Our e-bike incentive program will help save San Franciscans money and break down barriers so more people can access e-bikes to improve San Francisco's air quality and reduce congestion," said **Supervisor Preston.** "This program is a critical part of making our city more livable and equitable by supporting San Franciscans with the transition to an e-bike."

The legislation creates a new fund, administered by SF Environment, from which to build a new e-bike incentive program which will:

- Accept funds from City appropriations, and grants from local, state and federal sources, private donations. The program will be eligible for funding from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA)'s Transportation Demand Management program and the Equity Priority Transportation Program of the Prop L transportation sales tax,
- Use funds for point-of-sale rebates at local retailers for both standard and family/cargo e-bikes as well as adaptive mobility devices for people with disabilities.

- Sets a goal of 40% of funds going to low-income communities, and communities underserved by transit, and communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution.
- Limit incentives only for fire-safe devices to help San Franciscans replace unsafe devices with safe ones, and advance San Francisco's lithium-ion safety protections, developed by President Peskin earlier this year.

"E-bike incentives are proven to help people shift trips from cars to bikes—reducing car traffic, demand for car parking, noise, air pollution, climate emissions, roadway fatalities and injuries, and road construction, maintenance, and repair costs—and increase economic activity and revenue for local businesses. We're excited to continue working with public officials to secure funding for the e-bike incentive program and looking forward to getting e-bike incentives in the hands of San Franciscans as soon as possible." **Luke Bornheimer, Executive Director of Streets Forward**, the sustainable transportation advocacy organization that worked with President Peskin and Supervisor Preston on the proposed legislation.

"E-bikes make it easy for families and people of all ages and abilities to get around San Francisco quickly and reliably while increasing safety, promoting community healthy, and fighting climate change. We're excited to help more people experience e-bikes and transform their lives for the better as a result of the e-bike incentive program once funding is secured." –Karen Wiener and Brett Thurber, owners of The New Wheel and cofounders of Friiway.

"In order to advance environmental justice this e-bike incentive program must fit into broader efforts that develop both physical and social infrastructure as well as rebuilding trust. This includes funding MUNI and stopping the banning of RV's." said Jessie Fernandez of Coordinator of Bicis Del Pueblo and PODER.

"I am glad that Supervisors Peskin and Preston are serious about including people with disabilities in this program. Said **Ligia Montano**, **Organizing Director with Senior and Disability Action**. "San Francisco has set a goal to be a city that is friendly to seniors and people with disabilities. This is one step in the right direction."

"The SF Bicycle Coalition is excited to see this program prioritize equity-priority communities. We know these communities bear the brunt of climate change and are incredibly underserved by bike infrastructure and public transportation. An e-bike incentive program would make safety-certified e-bikes more easily available to low-income folks who otherwise could not afford them. This fund is the first step towards dramatically transforming the way people get around in our city, and we look forward to working with the SF Department of Environment on the program." Claire Amable, Director of Advocacy at the SF Bicycle Coalition

The ordinance will be heard at the Land Use and Transportation committee later this month.