



January 21, 2025

Re: Supporting Funding for E-bike Incentives and Green Mountain Transit in the BAA

Dear Chair Walker and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Local Motion urges you to help prevent cuts to Green Mountain Transit's critical services and ensure continued functioning of Vermont's groundbreaking e-bike incentive program through the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA). Investments in public transportation and e-bike access are cost-effective and generate essential workforce access for both employers and employees, while ensuring the well-being of Vermonters.

Green Mountain Transit

Green Mountain Transit, the state's largest transit provider, has been forced to cut services due to ongoing financial instability, leaving Vermonters without essential transportation options. In August 2024, GMT announced a draft service reduction plan aiming to cut \$3 million from its routes and services.

To ensure services, we are requesting an allocation of either \$1.2 million through the BAA to prevent further planned cuts this year; or \$1.9 million which would restore the routes already lost.

E-bike Incentives

Vermont's e-bike incentive program provides critical financial support to Vermonters who access employment and necessary services by bike. It is available only to low-income Vermonters, many of whom cannot afford to purchase and maintain a motor vehicle, and for whom an e-bike is a critical component of their daily routines. Additionally, the incentive supports local bicycle retailers who employ Vermonters and make our communities more vibrant. There is currently just \$8,700 available through the program.

A modest allocation of \$70,000 would help keep the e-bike rebates available through the end of the fiscal year, and ensure predictability and stability for Vermonters and retailers.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters.

Jonathon Weber, Programs Director — Local Motion