



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 17, 2021

File: 0120-06

To: Council

From: Councillor Cameron and Councillor Gambioli

Re: Notice of Motion regarding E-bike Incentive Pilot Program

Notice of the following motion regarding "E-bike incentive program" will be given at the November 22, 2021, regular Council meeting. At the December 6, 2021 regular Council meeting, after the proposed motion is moved and seconded, discussion on the proposed motion may be held.

Take notice that at the November 22nd, regular Council meeting, Councillor Cameron, with Councillor Gambioli as seconder, will move:

WHEREAS the District of West Vancouver has declared a climate emergency;

AND WHEREAS the majority of carbon emissions in West Vancouver come from buildings and transportation;

AND WHEREAS West Vancouver has committed to support active transportation;

AND WHEREAS e-bikes are both an efficient mode of active transportation and an effective means of replacing vehicle trips;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Council direct staff to report back to Council in the first quarter of 2022, regarding the launching of a District of West Vancouver e-bike financial incentive pilot program; and
- 2) staff be directed to explore a North Shore wide program with staff at the District of North Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver.



MOVER: Councillor Cameron



SECONDER: Councillor Gambioli

Information Supporting the Notice of Motion

Section 2.4 of West Vancouver's OCP regarding "Mobility and Circulation" supports policies that encourage walking and cycling. The OCP further recognizes that (p. 51):

Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and has other impacts (e.g. air quality and noise). Reduced auto-dependency and a more diverse mode split can help the community's impacts on the environment.

Diverse, active and well connected transportation options can improve accessibility and enable more active and healthy lifestyles. Equity for all members of the community means providing options for those who cannot drive (e.g. for reasons of age, health or income)

On July 8, 2019, West Vancouver Council voted unanimously to declare a climate emergency. Following this declaration, Council passed the Community Energy and Emissions Plan on March 9, 2020. In the CEEP, Council recognized that the majority of West Vancouver's current GHG emissions are from buildings and transportation. As in all other communities, transportation has been the fastest growing sector over the last twenty years, due to the shift towards less efficient vehicles and longer driving. Accordingly, the CEEP recommends several measures to shift towards transit and active transportation.

Objective 4.3 of Council's Strategic Plan for 2021-2022 is to "diversify, expand and improve the safety and appeal of active transportation options." Given the considerable initial expense of e-bikes, an incentive program will make them a more attractive option and will increase take-up by those for whom cost is an issue.

On July 6, 2021, West Vancouver joined the District of North Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver in a two-year e-bike share pilot program.

E-bikes are an easy, accessible, effective and environmentally-sensitive transportation option. Surveys find that e-bike owners replaced 50% of their car commutes and 30% their driving errands with e-bikes. E-bikes are particularly appropriate in West Vancouver given our steep topography, spread out community and aging population. In effect, e-bikes make it far easier for a broader range of residents to use active transportation to get around our community.

It is recognized that E-bikes are expensive and that cost can be a significant barrier to E-bike adoption for those with limited financial means. E-bike incentive programs aim to reduce this barrier and facilitate access to E-bikes by a broader cross-section of the community.

The District of Saanich launched an e-bike incentive pilot program on October 12, 2021. This program set an annual target of 300 participants, with 120 of them reserved for low income applicants. The incentives range from \$350 to \$1,600 based on household size and income. The program can be accessed either after the purchase of an e-bike by submitting an application form or prior to the purchase by submitting a form for pre-approval.

On Monday, November 15, 2021, the District of North Vancouver approved a motion to explore an e-bike incentive pilot program. The City of North Vancouver may be considering a similar program. Cooperation and coordination of a North Shore wide e-bike pilot program would be ideal.

Financial Implications

The costs of the E-bike incentive program would stem from the administration of the program and the direct rebates to E-bike purchasers. If the administration of the program is centralized and shared by the District of West Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver, the administration costs would be minimal. The total rebates available will largely determine the overall cost and this number is variable. It is suggested that West Vancouver allocated a total of \$150,000 to this program in year 1. This amount would be considered by Council during the budget process for 2022.

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