

Electric Bike & Scooter Share

How will this benefit Burlington?

CHOICE: Bike and scooter share will add to the growing diversity of transportation options for Burlingtonians. Experience in other communities has shown scooters to be nearly twice as popular as electric bicycles, and electric bicycles twice as popular as pedal bikes.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: In addition to greater options for personal use, the current proposal will support the local economy with a local General Manager and fleet manager, bike maintenance through a local shop, and local scooter charging teams.

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT: Reducing trips by automobile will also lessen our reliance on fossil fuels as electric power's renewable sourcing continues to grow. Less vehicle miles traveled also leads to less mobile sources of pollution in Burlington. Air pollution contributes to higher asthma rates and more medical visits. By reducing vehicle miles traveled, we are helping keep our air clean.

How much will this cost the city/me/the taxpayer?

This program will be funded by local sponsors, vendor Gotcha Bike, and user fees. The cities of Burlington and South Burlington did sponsor the first year of Greenride's launch, but that sponsorship is not needed for continued operation. Instead, Gotcha will provide \$1 per scooter per day into a local infrastructure fund that will be shared by the regional team.

In other communities, scooters have cluttered sidewalks and caused injuries. How will this be different?

Our scooter and bike share will not be dockless; they are required to be stored at fixed docking locations or users will pay a fee to park outside of fixed stations.

It has been difficult to verify or quantify the reports of positive and negative health impacts of scooters in other communities. The most complete data source has been provided by Portland OR, which indicates that their 4-month pilot supported 700,369 trips over 801,887 miles on 2,043 e-scooters, and their health department reported 176 scooter-related emergency room visits. Comparatively, a study of hospital data related to bike share systems found a reduction in the number of injuries after bike share systems were introduced. This is attributed to the "safety in numbers" phenomenon.

How will speed limits be enforced with motorized bikes and scooters?

The motors on this fleet will have a pre-programmed speed limit. The default for maximum e-assist scooter speed is 15 mph maximum and 20 mph for bicycles, but these limits can be easily capped at lower speeds by the provider. Riders must still follow all existing regulations and applicable laws.

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Where will scooters ride? Where will electric bicycles ride?

The rules of the road still apply! Scooters and electric bicycles will operate as vehicles – riding on roadways and not sidewalks. Since this is an emerging issue, local ordinances may be amended to adjust where these vehicles travel. Contact the city with suggestions for amendments to these regulations.

How are electric bikes and scooters recharged?

E-bikes will have a swappable battery. E-scooters will be removed from the streets and sidewalks each night to be recharged for the next day. As technology continues to advance, the scooters are projected to also have swappable batteries.

What will happen over winters?

Bicycles will remain year-round but may be scaled back in number. Scooters will be stored during winter months.

How is bike share different than bike rentals through local shops?

Bike share is priced to encourage short trips, typically up to 30-minutes. It may be more cost effective to rent through local bike shops for trips longer than 30 minutes, and other types of bikes, as well as accessories, are available from local shops.

How is this different than Greenride bike share?

Greenride bike share was the first of a 3-phase bike share launch. Initially, Greenride was projected to have 25% of its fleet as e-bikes. With increasing accessibility to e-bikes and Burlington's topography, a 100% electric fleet is offered by Gotcha (the original provider of the Greenride fleet). In addition, the number of bicycles and stations will increase.