

California's Bicycle Purchase Incentive Pilot Program

The California Bicycle Coalition is asking the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to expand their incentive programs to include the cleanest vehicle of all: *the bicycle*.



The ARB funds the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program and similar state programs to help people replace high-polluting car trips and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but they don't have any programs to encourage bicycle riding. CalBike proposes to change that with a \$10 million Bicycle Purchase Incentive Pilot Program.

The program will provide incentives in the form of vouchers or rebates for half of the cost of bikes that are commonly used for transportation, up to a maximum value of \$500, or \$1000 for electric bicycles. Bike share programs and bicycle repair services may also be supported, in addition to vouchers to incentivize purchase of cargo bikes, electric bikes, folding bikes, and other utilitarian bicycles used for everyday transportation. No funding would be taken from existing bicycle-related sources. The program could start as soon as July 2016 with approval of the FY17 budget.



Photo: Jillian Betterly

Q&A Pilot Program



peopleforbikes

What would the program support?

- Bicycles for transportation, including cargo bicycles, electric bikes, and folding bikes.
- Necessary transportation features such as lights, locks, racks, fenders, helmets.
- Fleets of bicycles to replace automobile fleets for businesses and public agencies.
- Bike share in disadvantaged communities.
- Bicycle repair and community bicycle shops in disadvantaged communities.

Who would the program support?

- Any Californian individual or family who will use their bicycles for transportation.
- Companies, public agencies, and campuses, up to 100 bicycles.
- Seventy-five percent of the vouchers will support those who need it the most: low-income people.

How will it work?

- Vouchers for individuals. Grants for businesses, agencies, or non-profits. Administration could be as simple as the current program.
- Participants will be required to complete a before-and-after survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

What are the benefits?

- Three quarters of all trips and one third of all miles traveled by car are for trips of under ten miles, a distance easily covered by electric bicycle.
- More good, local jobs.
- Increased physical activity and health.
- Reduced crash risk for bicyclists.

How can I help?

- Sign our petition to the Air Resources Board at fixcaliforniaroads.org/ARBletter.
- Donate!