E-Bikes: More Options for People on the Move

E-bikes are a growing mode of active transportation. Their unique characteristics suit a wide range of uses: they provide benefits for different user groups, including individuals with physical disabilities, as well as the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. E-bikes are an evolving technology, with variance across jurisdictions in the definition of what constitutes an e-bike. This introduces a range of styles: with such variety, there’s a style to suit everyone.

E-Bikes Styles

- City Bike
- Mountain Bike
- Road Bike
- Trike
- Longtail Cargo Bike
- Long John Cargo Bike
- Low Step Bike

E-bikes vary in range and charge type. Range is affected by factors such as battery size, weight of bike, how often the assist is used, and what type of terrain the cyclists are travelling. Depending on these factors, the range of a full charge varies from 45 kilometers to 180 kilometers.

Charging your E-Bike

- Battery charging involves significant downtime, typically a few hours for a ‘fast’ charge.
- There are no existing universal charging connectors, so e-bike charging stations are small, specific to one model or a manufacturer.
- Portable chargers are available but can be cumbersome and heavy.
- Battery chargers cause significant emissions when charging at home, so community charging stations are essential.
- Electrically charging a bike requires an electrical outlet at the end of the trip, so cyclists would currently need to bring their own charging systems.

Keeping on Biking: Charging your E-Bike

- Commuters typically have access to electrical outlets at the office or workplace.
- Tourists and recreational users typically have access to electrical outlets at accommodation facilities.
- For battery charging stations to be helpful along bike routes, cyclists would currently need to bring their own charging systems.

Opportunities to Increase E-Bike Use

- Provide optional access at community and civic events:
- Install electric bike charging points at community and civic events.
- Include electric bike charging points in public park and recreation centres.

Keep on Biking: End-of-Trip Facilities for E-Bikes

- Bike stands that can accommodate e-bike charging points.
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Keep on Biking: E-Bike Infrastructure

E-bike infrastructure is critical for the growth of e-bike businesses. Infrastructure such as bike storage, bike parking, and bike charging stations are essential for e-bike businesses to successfully compete and grow. There is a growing trend of trades moving to e-bikes for small repairs for both cost and sustainability.

E-bikes allow entrepreneurs to complete most of the work themselves and provide support services such as bike maintenance and repairs, allowing them to offer a competitive price and increase demand for e-bike businesses. E-bike businesses will continue to grow as the bikes become more available to the public and as more people adopt e-bikes as their primary mode of transportation.

Business Opportunities with E-Bikes

- E-bike businesses can be expected to enter the market in the future. Considering the growing prevalence of e-bike businesses in B.C., different types of businesses are moving to e-bikes for small repairs for both cost and sustainability.
- E-bikes provide a significantly lower entry cost point than food trucks. They allow entrepreneurs to complete most of the work themselves and provide support services such as bike maintenance and repairs, allowing them to offer a competitive price and increase demand for e-bike businesses. E-bike businesses will continue to grow as the bikes become more available to the public and as more people adopt e-bikes as their primary mode of transportation.

E-bikes, particularly cargo bikes, create an opportunity for a new business model. E-bike delivery businesses can offer greater distances for services (for example, goods delivery, transport of children) and on longer distance trail systems. E-bike businesses can offer same-day delivery, and improve infrastructure and develop long-term business plans for these markets.

End-of-Trip Facilities for E-Bikes

- Provide standard electrical outlets at picnic areas, at cafes or restaurants. Ensure secure bicycle parking facilities and may ultimately impact the design of bike lanes.
- Provide standard electrical outlets at tourist accommodation facilities. Cyclists would currently need to bring their own charging systems.
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You've Arrived!

You've arrived at your destination. Given the higher cost of e-bikes, protection of the e-bike from theft and weather, while being located suitably close to the user's destination is important. Given the higher cost of e-bikes, protection of the e-bike from theft and weather, while being located suitably close to the user's destination is important.

Common Considerations with E-Bikes

- Consider if the facilities are only secured during periods of substantial non-use time, such as at night, or any time that they are not expected to be in use. Consider if the facilities are only secured during periods of substantial non-use time, such as at night, or any time that they are not expected to be in use.
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