



HANDBOOK

A Toolkit for Local Electeds Climate Action

Micromobility for Small Communities

A part of the [Rural Transportation Handbook](#)



Stay tuned for the up-to-date version of this resource!

This document is undergoing fact checks and updates... you will be able to access the new version in September 2025.

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Did you know Climate Caucus offers an “Ask Us Anything” service for elected officials in the network?

You could ask questions like “can you help me find this resource?” “Do you know of funding for X?” “Do you have examples of X policy language?” or “can you connect me with an expert in X?”

Send us your questions here!

Micro Mobility Initiatives

****Climate Caucus has ranked the following initiatives from beginner to expert, based on Complexity to implement, Staff time & expertise and Political capital. Please note, these rankings are our own best judgements.*

*Resource expertise level:  Green = beginner  Blue = intermediate
 Black = advanced  Double black = expert

Develop Financing Programs to Support Adoption

The Basics:

- Direct staff to develop financing programs for municipal employees and municipal residents.
 - A municipally supported financing program can help reduce one of the primary barriers to micro mobility electrification, that being the upfront cost investment.
 - Serves community members and employees who would like to purchase an electric mobility device, but are unable to pay the upfront cost at the point of purchase.
 - Provides a new mode of transportation for citizens to reach desired economic and social opportunities that may have otherwise been challenging.
 - Can reduce the overall cost burden of transportation that is placed on some families, as people can be forced into auto-ownership because of their home location relative to their place of work.

Examples:

Case Study: [Town of Nelson Electric Bicycle Financing Program](#)

- The E-Bike program provides low-interest financing for Nelson homeowners who would like to purchase a commuter bike including electric bikes, do-it-yourself conversion kits, non-electric bikes and accessories that are related to safety and commuting (not including clothing).
- The loan is applied directly onto the homeowner's Nelson Hydro electric bill and repaid over the term of the loan. Participants may choose a 2 or 5 year amortization period, with an interest rate of 3.5%.
- This aspect of the program may raise challenges for municipalities that do not own their local electric utility provider.
- The maximum loan amount is \$8,000 per household, facilitating the purchase of more than one electric bicycle.
- City of Nelson Municipal Staff are also able to purchase an electric bicycle and they are provided the opportunity to have it paid off in installments taken from their paycheque with no interest. This helps remove the upfront cost barrier.

Ensure Bylaw Regulations are Updated to Support Usage

The Basics:

- Direct staff to update bylaw regulations to enable the usage of electric bicycles and electric scooters on municipal roads and cycling infrastructure.
 - Allows you integrate these mobility devices into your network
 - Provide regulations on the rules of operations, such as speed limits, parking zones, riding areas.

Examples:

- [City of Whitehorse bylaw \(E-bikes, E-scooters, Electric Mobility devices\)](#)
- [Ontario Government E-Scooter Pilot Program](#)
- [Ontario Municipal Guidelines and things to consider](#)

Promote the Adoption of Electric Bicycles and Scooters through Community Events

The Basics:

Providing education and advertisement about electric bicycles through public events and community gatherings can be effective in building consumer acceptance about the technology.

- Direct staff to work with community members and local organizations to develop an event to promote the usage and uptake of micro mobility devices
 - These events can act as gateways, allowing people to learn and immerse themselves in the alternative transportation mode ecosystem.
 - Opportunity to build relationships amongst municipal leaders, staff, and community members.
 - Citizens can learn firsthand about the experience of e-bike and e-scooter owners. Helps build consumer confidence knowing there are uses for the devices; can be hard for some people to imagine a use for the mobility device without ever having used one.
 - Provides an opportunity for citizens to test drive the new mobility modes to help build comfortability.

Examples:

- [Nelson Community E-Bike Expo](#)

Climate Caucus Resources:

[Climate Caucus Municipal Grants List](#) - detailed list of relevant municipal grants

[Policies and Resources Library](#) - list of motions, bylaws, council reports and briefing notes