

25 **WHEREAS**, the City faces a geometric challenge in efficiently moving our
26 rapidly growing population around town, and many more people can move through
27 a given space on bikes than in individual cars due to bikes' compactness; and

28 **WHEREAS**, that geometric challenge will soon become substantially more
29 difficult as IH-35, the Project Connect corridors, and other major highways and
30 corridors undergo construction that will last for years; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Austin voters approved a transformational investment in high-
32 capacity transit with Project Connect, and bicycles not only greatly extend the
33 distance from which an individual can access transit without a car, but also can be
34 carried onto transit to solve the first mile/last mile problem; and

35 **WHEREAS**, bikes do less damage to our public streets than heavier
36 vehicles and therefore incur less street maintenance costs for the City; and

37 **WHEREAS**, the price of an electric bike is less than that of a car but still
38 poses a financial barrier to many Austinites; and

39 **WHEREAS**, low-interest loan financing is not widely available for the
40 purchase of a bike, which can pose an obstacle to families and individuals with
41 insufficient wealth to buy a vehicle outright and/or lead to the use of high-interest
42 rate credit card debt to finance an electric bike purchase; and

43 **WHEREAS**, Austin Energy offers an electric bike rebate program that has
44 benefited over 2,600 participants over the years; and

45 **WHEREAS**, actions to strengthen existing City incentives and to improve
46 access to low-interest financing tools could reduce the financial barriers to electric
47 bike ownership; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

48 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

49 Council directs the City Manager to take action to accelerate adoption of
50 electric bicycle (e-bike) ownership, access, and usage by Austin residents. The
51 Manager shall consider, but not be limited to, the following actions:

- 52 1. Strengthen the City incentives for e-bike purchases, potentially including:
 - 53 a. Increasing the rebate amount and percentage for an e-bike
54 purchase generally;
 - 55 b. Creating an income-based sliding scale for the rebate amount;
 - 56 c. Providing a stronger incentive for the purchase of an electric cargo
57 bike than for a standard e-bike with less cargo- or people-carrying
58 capacity; and/or
 - 59 d. Allowing, with proof of address, any member of a household that
60 receives electricity from Austin Energy to be eligible to apply for
61 and receive the rebate, regardless of whether that member is the
62 named Austin Energy account holder for the household.
- 63 2. Collaborate with local credit unions or other financial institutions with
64 the goal of encouraging their creation of low-interest loan programs for
65 e-bike purchases, and/or identify existing, low-interest financing tools for
66 e-bike purchases that are available to Austinites.
- 67 3. Collaborate with non-Austin Energy electricity providers that serve
68 Austin residents with the goal of encouraging their creation of e-bike
69 incentive programs.
- 70 4. Expand community outreach citywide to increase opportunities to test-
71 ride e-bikes, improve awareness of financial resources for e-bike
72 purchases, and share information on the MetroBike system and its e-
73 bikes available for rent and on the City's bike infrastructure network.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to provide the City Council with an update on this Resolution by November 15, 2022.

ADOPTED: _____, 2022 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk