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April 7, 2023

Members of the Washington State Legislature,

As leaders in sustainable transportation and employers working to reduce drive-alone rates in Seattle, we understand the importance of e-bikes to meeting our transportation and climate goals. **We write to emphasize the need for subsidies to make e-bikes affordable for all.**

With over 64,000 respondents, Commute Seattle's 2022 Seattle Commute Survey highlights the importance of e-bikes to our regional transportation system. E-bikes make up a growing share of trips to and through Seattle. However, our data shows that e-bikes are mostly available to those with higher incomes than the average Seattle commuter, with 53% of survey respondents who reported using an e-bike earning more than \$150,000, while only 15% earn less than \$90,000.

This disproportionate adoption of e-bikes by high-income individuals reflects an affordability challenge, not a lack of interest from lower-income workers. A survey of recipients of Denver's e-bike subsidy revealed that rebate recipients qualifying as low-income rode their e-bikes nearly 50% more miles per week on average than higher-income recipients.

E-bikes help to address congestion across our transportation system. Data from Denver shows that subsidized e-bikes replaced approximately 100,000 vehicle miles each week, with the most common destinations being errands and social outings. These destinations are particularly impactful, as Seattle Commute Survey data illustrates how non-commute trips are the greatest challenge and opportunity for reducing drive-alone rates. Currently 75% of non-commute trips are taken by driving alone, compared to only 21% of commute trips.

We thank Senate budget and transportation leaders for including \$7 million in e-bike investments in their budget proposal, including \$5 million for e-bike subsidies. As the budget process moves forward, we urge House and Senate leaders to maintain these critical investments in the final budget package.

Sincerely,



About Commute Seattle

For over 15 years, Commute Seattle has worked to make our City more affordable, sustainable, and connected by making it easy to walk, bike, ride, and telework to and through Seattle. We are a non-profit engaging with businesses, organizations, community partners, and destinations that employ, serve, and attract 600,000 people to Seattle every day. We prioritize and center those who are disproportionately burdened by transportation costs to support an equitable, vibrant and prosperous community. For more information, visit www.commuteseattle.com