



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Member of Council

July 2, 2021

Dr. Michelle Steele, Chairperson
Board of Parks and Recreation

Dear Dr. Steele and Board Members,

We are writing in support of the application of BCycle to officially allow the riders of e-bikes access to Greenways in Nashville. BCycle was very popular in the past, and we believe that a bike share program is essential to making Nashville a more bike friendly city.

BCycle is moving to the use of class 1 e-bikes as are bike share systems around the country and the world. Shifting to an electric bike will allow BCycle bikes to be accessible and useful to even more people, for even more trips. E-Bikes are becoming more popular among bicycle riders and represent a larger share of total bike sales each year. There are currently many e-bike riders safely using our greenways, and the number will continue to increase.

E-bikes provide a new option for people who want to ride a bicycle but might not otherwise do so because of physical fitness, different abilities, age, or convenience. Bike shops report that many senior citizens and new riders purchase e-bikes, and studies show that e-bike users experience just as much physical benefit as bike riders. E-bikes are also very popular with commuters and appeal to families seeking a recreational activity.

Greenways are an integral part of the transportation system in Nashville and have been included in Metro plans such as WalknBike and your own Plan to Play Master Plan. This is found on page 133 of Plan to Play:

"These corridors provide important connections and linkages necessary to meet the recreational needs of Metro Nashville residents. However, greenways provide more than a recreation experience; they also serve as essential transportation and environmental infrastructure. This network is also part of a larger countywide network of sidewalks and bikeways, that together create a comprehensive transportation network."

Nashville does not present well in many national rankings of bike friendly cities. Allowing e-bikes and welcoming BCycle will improve our transportation system and give Nashville residents the same opportunities that citizens in most other cities already enjoy. Currently 43 states (including Tennessee) and most US cities already classify e-bikes as bikes, not motor vehicles, and allow e-bikes on greenways and multiuse paths. Encouraging e-bikes on greenways would align Nashville with most other cities and states.

Sincerely,

Bob Mendes
Councilmember, At-Large



Nancy VanReece
Councilmember, District 8
Chair, Parks, Library, and Arts Committee



Burkley Allen
Councilmember, At-Large



Emily Benedict
Councilmember, District 7



Erin Evans
Councilmember, District 12



Colby Sledge
Councilmember, District 17



Mary Carolyn Roberts
Councilmember, District 20



Sandra Sepulveda
Councilmember, District 30



Angie Henderson
Councilmember, District 34



Sharon Hurt
Councilmember, At-Large



Sean Parker
Councilmember, District 5



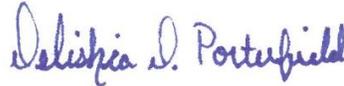
Tonya Hancock
Councilmember, District 9



Ginny Welsch
Councilmember, District 16



Freddie O'Connell
Councilmember, District 19



Delishia Porterfield
Councilmember, District 29



John Rutherford
Councilmember, District 31

cc: Mayor John Cooper
Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman
Ms. Monique Odom, Director of Parks & Recreation