

March 29, 2023

David Mohler, Chair
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Mohler:

On behalf of the 13 municipal members of the Bluebikes General Council, the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett and Somerville request that the MPO fund the introduction of electric assist “e-bikes” into the Bluebikes public bike share system in FFY 2024, as proposed in programming scenario 5.

Over the last year, the General Council has worked tirelessly to plan for the integration of e-bikes into the fleet. E-bikes will accelerate Bluebikes’ unprecedented success at encouraging travel by bike, offering a comfortable and convenient mode that will attract new riders throughout the region, providing access to biking for many people with mobility challenges, and making bike share a feasible transportation option for residents in municipalities and neighborhoods further from the region’s job centers. Together, the General Council’s municipal staff have worked through many challenges in integrating e-bikes into Bluebikes, and we are prepared to implement this project within FFY 2024.

Bluebikes’ success demonstrates the tremendous potential in municipal collaboration. Our public bike share system is arguably the strongest in the country, and has been carefully planned, managed, and developed over more than a decade through strong partnership among the four original members of the General Council, with technical support from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The system’s recent growth into new municipalities is testament to the critical role that bike share can play throughout the metro region. The introduction of e-bikes will only strengthen the ability of bike share to meet greater Boston’s mobility needs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental & Transportation Planning
City of Cambridge

VineetKGupta

Vineet Gupta, Director of Policy and Planning
Streets Cabinet, City of Boston

Jay Monty

Jay Monty, Director of Transportation and Mobility
City of Everett