



White Salmon Special City Council Meeting

A G E N D A

September 24, 2025 – 3:45 PM

119 NE Church Ave and Zoom Teleconference

Meeting ID: 898 1048 2285

Call In: 1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810482285>

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Business Items**
 - A. Approval of a Grant Application for an E-Bike Lending Library program
 - 1. Presentation
 - 2. Discussion
 - 3. Action
- IV. Adjournment**



File Attachments for Item:

A. Approval of a Grant Application for an E-Bike Lending Library program



CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Business Item

Needs Legal Review:
Meeting Date:
Agenda Item:
Presented By:



Consent Agenda

No
September 24, 2025
Grant Application for E-Bike Lending Library program
Rowan Fairfield

Action Required

Approve the submission of the grant application.

Motion for Business Item

Move that the City approve the submission of a grant application for establishing an electric bicycle lending library.

Explanation of Issue

This grant is for establishing a free lending library for electric bicycles, or “e-bikes”.

This opportunity is provided by the Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) using funds from the state’s Climate Commitment Act. The funds will last through the 25-27 biennium. See the WSDOT program page by [clicking this link](#). WSDOT is partnering with the University of Washington (UW) to collect data on usage and equity.

Avery Morris of Forth Mobility reached out to the City in mid-September to discuss this opportunity, and offered to be the primary applicant and administrator. Forth currently administers the successful EV Car Share program in Bingen and White Salmon. It is important that a non-profit be the primary applicant, because they are eligible to run a program that serves low-income residents and/or “overburdened” populations, while a government-run program could only serve its employees. Klickitat County is considered “overburdened”.

Since deciding to pursue this grant, we invited the City of Bingen to join us, and we have collaborated at a rapid clip to get all the pieces in place. There are a few different roles:

Forth
White Salmon & Bingen
Gorge Aspirations

Prime applicant & program administrator
City governments
Operations & Maintenance Partner

We also will contract with a local bike shop (such as Dr. Roscoe’s) to provide fleet maintenance and repairs. Forth will contract with suppliers to purchase the e-bikes, their software, and their storage facilities.

Our goal for this program is the adoption of alternative transportation modes into people's regular lifestyles. With that goal in mind, we are designing our program with:

- Longer reservation periods, up to 1 month
- Three (3) hub sites: downtown White Salmon, downtown Bingen, and Skyline Hospital/Rhine Village area
- General eligibility to all local residents, but focused marketing to low-income residents and WAGAP clients
- Helmets, locks, safety gear, and basic training included
- Materials available in English and Spanish
- Educational video filmed locally with a community member
- Education specific to rural road riding
- Connecting participants with rebate programs and other incentives to support long-term adoption

At the end of two years, we can request an extension for additional 2 years, or transition to an ownership model (giving the e-bikes to the users), or end the program and reimburse the state for depreciated assets.

Transportation costs are the second-largest expenditure for Americans, about 15% of average household spending, and even higher for low-income households. Transportation fuels contribute over 20% of US greenhouse gas emissions. Dependence on personal vehicles has been linked to worse outcomes for physical and mental health, e.g. the obesity epidemic, the "loneliness epidemic". We can make a meaningful difference in our community and our world by supporting alternative transportation modes.

City Council Options:

1. Adopt the Staff Recommendation to approve the grant application.
2. Deny the grant application.
3. Take no action on this request.
4. Other action that may be desired by the Council.

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no cost implications tied to the approval of this grant application, aside from some marginal staff hours. This grant requires zero match.

Recommendation of Staff:

It is recommended by staff that the City Council approve the submission of this grant application.