



Office of the
City Manager

Anna Roach
Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree ST NE
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

March 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express the City of Savannah's intention to join the Atlanta Regional Commission's coalition application for a statewide E-Bike Rebate Program under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We firmly believe in the significance of implementing sustainable transportation solutions throughout Georgia and look forward to partnering with the ARC on this innovative new opportunity.

The Savannah area is experiencing unprecedented growth due to the expansion of the Port of Savannah and other economic development projects. These investments will create hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs over the next few years, but these will only benefit residents if they have reliable transportation for getting to and from work. The ARC's statewide E-Bike Rebate Program represents a compelling opportunity to increase access to clean, affordable, and reliable transportation that can help residents of all incomes and from all neighborhoods benefit from these new opportunities.

In addition to increasing access to affordable and reliable transportation, this program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve local air quality, and reduce congestion by shifting solo car trips to bike trips. These mode shifts were identified as a key strategy in the City's 100% Savannah Plan, which charts a path to meeting all community-wide energy needs with renewable energy by 2050.

The City of Savannah is eager to support a successful initiative through community outreach, stakeholder engagement, and continued investment in the infrastructure that is needed to support a safe and welcoming bike culture. In the meantime, the City of Savannah is aware of and is prepared to sign the necessary Memorandum of Agreement by July 1, 2024 to facilitate the successful completion of the application process.

Thank you for considering our endorsement of this important initiative. We are eager to collaborate and contribute to the realization of a cleaner, greener, more connected Georgia.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Melder
City Manager
City of Savannah, Georgia