



CITY OF CLEARWATER

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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Business Case

Project Title:	CRA OFFICERS E-BIKE PROGRAM
Date Submitted:	July 1, 2025
Submitted By:	Lt. Steve Baginski
Project Vision Statement: <i>Write a concise, high-level description of the project that states the project's purpose.</i>	
The CRA Officers E-Bike Program is designed to strengthen public safety and community engagement by equipping the Downtown Community Policing Team with electric bicycles. E-bikes enhance officer mobility, visibility, and response time, allowing law enforcement to cover ground more efficiently, deter crime through proactive patrols, and engage more directly with residents and businesses. As the use of e-bikes grows across the country, traditional bicycles have become less effective tools for maintaining a visible and responsive police presence.	
The legal basis for this program is firmly established in Florida Statutes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Section 163.387(6)(c)8, Florida Statutes, explicitly allows CRA increment funds to be used for “the development of community policing innovations.”•Section 163.360(3), Florida Statutes, affirms that community redevelopment plans may provide for the development and implementation of community policing innovations as part of authorized redevelopment efforts.•Under Section 163.387(1)(a), CRA trust funds may be spent only on activities undertaken pursuant to an approved community redevelopment plan. This program qualifies under that condition.	
The E-Bike Program directly aligns with the adopted Downtown Clearwater Community Redevelopment Plan. Specifically, Policy 30 of the plan (p. 50) supports community policing strategies within the CRA and identifies patrol enhancements such as bicycle patrols as valid community policing innovations. Policy 30 states:	
“Community policing innovations in the CRA shall continue to focus on a variety of policing strategies that increase police visibility and reduce opportunities for criminal activities. Such innovations include, but are not limited to, intensified motorized patrol, bicycle patrol, field interrogations, the establishment of a business and/or neighborhood block watch, and the continued presence of a police substation in the CRA.”	
By supporting modernized bicycle patrol with e-bikes, the program fulfills this policy directive and operationalizes the redevelopment plan’s vision for improved public safety and community trust.	
This program will be implemented exclusively within the geographic boundaries of the Downtown Clearwater Community Redevelopment Area, ensuring alignment with statutory and plan-based funding restrictions.	
In summary, the CRA Officers E-Bike Program is fully authorized under Florida law and the adopted community redevelopment plan. It represents a clear example of how CRA increment funds can be used to implement	

innovative, plan-aligned strategies that advance public safety, reduce crime, and support the long-term revitalization goals of the Downtown CRA district.

Need and Benefit Summary: *Identify the need for this project, include the proposed benefits, value, and feasibility (alignment with appropriate planning documents include page numbers for reference)*

Electric bicycles offer numerous advantages for community policing in a dense urban environment like the CRA district. E-bikes allow officers to patrol broader areas more efficiently than traditional bikes, especially in pedestrian-oriented or high-traffic zones where patrol vehicles are impractical. Benefits include:

- Faster response times to incidents within the corridor
- Reduced officer fatigue, supporting longer and more consistent patrol coverage
- Improved community engagement, thanks to the quiet and approachable nature of e-bike patrols
- Increased visibility and deterrence, helping to reduce criminal activity through a stronger law enforcement presence

This initiative is directly aligned with the goals and policies outlined in the Downtown CRA Plan. Specifically:

- Policy 30 (Pg. 50): **Supports community policing innovations that increase police visibility and reduce opportunities for criminal activity.** E-bikes enhance these efforts by enabling more visible and frequent patrols across the CRA.
- Policy 28 (Pg. 50): **Encourages redevelopment and law enforcement strategies focused on high-police-service properties.** E-bikes improve officers' ability to monitor and respond proactively to such areas.
- Policy 29 (Pg. 50): **Emphasizes increased coordination and communication among residents, Police Officers, and Code Compliance staff.** E-bike patrols support this by fostering more approachable and interactive engagement with the public.

These policies, as outlined in the CRA Downtown Plan, serve as a foundation for enhancing public safety and officer accessibility, and collectively support the purchase and implementation of e-bikes as a strategic public safety investment.

Stakeholders: *Identify key individuals, groups or organizations that may affect, be affected by or perceive themselves to be affected by the project.*

Key stakeholders include:

- Downtown residents and visitors, who benefit from a safer and more secure environment
- Local businesses, which depend on a vibrant and safe commercial district
- Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), whose goals include revitalization, safety, and economic development
- Clearwater Police Department (CPD), particularly the Downtown Community Policing Team

The program supports improved public perception of law enforcement, builds trust, and promotes a visible, community-oriented policing strategy.

Measurable Strategic Objectives: *Include the goals/objectives that can be quantified, i.e. objectives key results, key performance indicators, and so on.*

The success of the CRA Officers E-Bike Program will be evaluated using the following metrics:

- Reduction in response times to incidents in the CRA district
- Increased patrol coverage across the corridor
- Higher visibility and presence of officers during peak hours and events
- Community engagement metrics, including officer-resident interactions and positive public feedback
- Changes in reported crime statistics, particularly in areas with high pedestrian activity

Estimated Project Plan Completion Date:	24/25 Fiscal Year	Strategic Plan Objective ##:	1.3,1.4,1.5
CRA Location:	Downtown Clearwater	CRA Plan Page ##:	Pg#50
Budget Source:	CRA Downtown/Inter-local agreement	Estimated Budget Amount:	\$15,000
Lead Entity	X DTCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> NGCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> DDB

FOR CRA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ONLY

Assigned Project Manager:			
Sponsor/Approval Authority:			
Signature:		Date:	