A Circular Mobility Network for a Low-Carbon Mountain Community

Breckenridge, CO USA, United States of America
Town of Breckenridge Sustainability
Local Destinations (including villages, cities, municipalities, islands)
Visitor Experience & Destination Management

Summary of Good Practice Story
Breckenridge, a high-altitude Colorado mountain town squeezed into a narrow valley with only two roads in and out, saw its compact historic core strained by private-vehicle congestion and diesel delivery trucks navigating tight alleys, eroding the walkable, friendly atmosphere residents valued (85% said mobility access mattered to their quality of life). The town launched E Ride in 2023, placing electric bikes — later joined by cargo bikes for grocery and pantry runs — at neighbourhood hubs, and in 2024 introduced E Delivery, a centralised dock where large trucks unload outside busy areas so small electric carts complete last-mile deliveries and collect clean cardboard on return trips. By 2025-2026, thousands of car trips had shifted to e-bikes and more than 2,400 trucks had been removed from the downtown core, producing calmer, quieter streets that both residents and visitors noticed immediately. The lesson: low-carbon mobility works best as one connected system rather than separate programmes, and pairing mobility with material recovery (like cardboard collection) creates efficiencies that build trust and momentum for further climate action.

Setting the Scene: Destination & context
Breckenridge sits in a high-altitude mountain valley with only two main routes in and out.

Its compact historic center becomes especially busy during peak tourism seasons. Residents, workers, visitors, delivery vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians all need to move through the same limited space.

Mobility therefore affects more than transportation. It shapes daily life and the visitor experience.

A community survey found that 85% of residents considered bicycle and mobility access important to their quality of life. Residents also valued downtown for being friendly, walkable, and easy to explore.

Protecting these qualities meant finding better ways for both people and goods to move through town.

The Turning Point: Why change was needed

Breckenridge had long depended on private vehicles and large delivery trucks moving through narrow streets that were never designed for such volume. During busy seasons the historic core often felt strained, with cars making frequent short trips and trucks navigating tight alleys. Residents and visitors experienced congestion, noise, and reduced walkability, and these conditions began to erode the friendly and comfortable atmosphere that people value in the area. As diesel trucks passed through the most visited parts of town each day, the community grew increasingly aware of the safety risks and the environmental impacts they created. The moment of realization came as residents, businesses, and town partners recognized that these pressures were not temporary inconveniences but signs that the community needed a new approach. There was a shared concern that the character of the town and the experience of being here were at stake. This understanding opened the door to rethinking how people and goods could move through Breckenridge in a way that supported safety, improved daily life, and aligned with the community's climate goals.

The Vision: What you set out to do

Breckenridge set out to create a mobility system where electric travel would feel natural, convenient, and accessible for everyday life. The motivation came from a growing awareness that the community needed a cleaner and more efficient way for people and goods to move through the narrow valley and historic core. Local partners, residents, and town staff shared a desire to protect the atmosphere of the downtown area while addressing congestion, emissions, and safety. The vision focused on helping people travel without relying on private vehicles through the expansion of E Ride, and on reducing truck traffic through a new approach to goods movement with E Delivery. These goals were rooted in the belief that quieter streets, cleaner air, and a more walkable environment would strengthen the character of the community and improve the experience of those who live, work, and visit here. As the vision evolved, the community also embraced the opportunity to link mobility with material recovery by integrating cardboard collection into the E Delivery system.

The Journey: How change happened
E Ride began in 2023 with a simple idea from town staff and community partners who believed that electric bikes could make daily life easier. As the first bikes appeared at neighborhood hubs, residents and workers began trying them for short commutes and errands, often sharing surprise at how quickly the bikes helped them avoid traffic and parking stress. As ridership grew, the system expanded with more hubs and more reliable service, and by 2025 thousands of trips had shifted from cars to bikes.

In 2026 the team introduced two front loading electric cargo bikes and placed them at the grocery store and community resource center. Riders used them to carry groceries, pantry items, and thrift store goods, showing how the system could support practical, everyday needs.

E Delivery launched in 2024 with the construction of a centralized dock where large trucks unload outside the busiest areas. Small electric carts completed the last mile and collected clean cardboard on their return trips. Businesses quickly noticed more predictable deliveries and less congestion in alleys. As the program grew, it became part of the daily rhythm of the town, with carts moving quietly through the core each morning. By 2026 the system had removed thousands of trucks, recovered cardboard, and helped create a calmer downtown environment. Breckenridge moved forward through collaboration among residents, businesses, town staff, and logistics partners who worked together to create a more efficient and climate conscious mobility system.

The Breakthrough: What you achieved
The introduction of E Ride and E Delivery created visible and meaningful change across Breckenridge. E Ride shifted thousands of short car trips to electric bike trips, which made daily travel easier for residents and workers, and reduced hassles related to parking and congestion. Many riders shared that commuting or running errands became less stressful and more enjoyable once the system expanded across the community. E Delivery brought a similar transformation to the movement of goods. By removing more than 2,400 trucks from the downtown core, the program reduced noise, fumes, and conflicts in tight spaces where people walk, shop, and gather. Businesses experienced more reliable deliveries and fewer disruptions, while waste haulers noted smoother operations in narrow alleys. These improvements created calmer streets and cleaner air, and both residents and visitors began to feel a renewed sense of comfort in the historic core. Visitors noticed quieter mornings, more welcoming public spaces, and an easier time exploring the area on foot or by bike. Together the two programs helped the community feel more connected, more walkable, and more aligned with its climate goals.

Reflections: What you learned and what others can learn
Breckenridge learned that low carbon transportation works best when viewed as one connected system rather than separate programs. E Ride and E Delivery supported different needs, yet

they reinforced each other in ways the community did not fully expect. One surprise was how quickly people noticed everyday improvements. Quieter streets, more organized alleys, and the presence of electric bikes and carts helped residents and visitors feel more comfortable moving through the downtown area. These visible changes built trust and showed that climate action can feel practical and immediate. The community also learned that linking mobility with material recovery creates meaningful efficiencies. The simple act of collecting clean cardboard during delivery routes strengthened recycling and opened the door for future composting. The greatest lesson was that collaboration matters. Residents, businesses, partners, and town staff shaped the programs together, which made it easier to adapt and respond to challenges. Other destinations can learn from this systems-based approach, which shows that improving mobility, reducing waste, and creating a welcoming experience can happen at the same time.

The Ripple Effect: Lasting impact

The success of E Ride and E Delivery has sparked wider change throughout Breckenridge. As the programs became part of daily life, they inspired new ideas about what a low carbon mountain community can look like. Businesses began sharing positive experiences with reliable deliveries and calmer streets, which encouraged more collaboration and interest in future improvements. Residents expressed pride in seeing their community embrace practical climate action that makes daily movement easier and protects the welcoming feel of the downtown area. The cardboard recovery system created momentum for exploring new material recovery efforts. The addition of electric cargo bikes encouraged new habits as people realized that even essential errands could be done without a car. These outcomes strengthened the belief that mobility, sustainability, and visitor experience can advance together. Looking ahead, Breckenridge is continuing to expand its mobility programs and explore new partnerships that support a healthier and more connected community. The work has shown that small, visible changes can build confidence and inspire a shared sense of possibility for the future.

Awards or Certifications

Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award
From the League of American Bicyclists.

Web Articles

https://www.summitdaily.com/news/breckenridge-restaurateurs-talk-success-of-e-delivery-program-ahead-of-fee-system-rollout/
https://www.summitdaily.com/news/brecks-e-ride-program-surpasses-15000-trips/

Other Relevant Links

https://plan.sustainablebreck.com/
https://breckenridgeco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/57/files/attachment/1038
https://breckenridgeco.portal.civicclerk.com/event/231/files/attachment/1233
https://breckeride.com/

https://106westlogistics.com/breckenridge

Quotes or Testimonials

“It turns out that this program saves our distributors … so many man hours, truck wear and tear, fuel costs and emergencies where they get stuck in alleys.” - https://www.summitdaily.com/news/breckenridge-restaurateurs-talk-success-of-e-delivery-program-ahead-of-fee-system-rollout/

Mayor Pro Tem Dick Carleton highlighted the program's success and positive community response, stating that it "revolutionizes transportation" and helps "keep on riding" in the town. - https://www.facebook.com/TownBreckCO/videos/happy-sustainability-saturday-breckenridge-mayor-pro-tem-dick-carleton-tells-us-/918986980315054/