# Who wins in the e-mobility revolution? The Māngere e-bike trial.

|  |
| --- |
| A shift in travel modes is crucial for reducing transport-related carbon emissions to meet the goals of New Zealand’s Climate Change Response. While e-bikes for transport and recreation are growing in popularity, there is a risk that those with lower incomes may miss-out and be locked into a narrower range of transport options. Furthermore, there is a risk that infrastructure investment, such as that delivered and planned in Māngere, Auckland, is under-utilised if local responses to walking and cycling are not encouraged. A partnership involving local bike leadership (Time to Thrive), the Māngere Otahuhu Local Board, Auckland Transport, e-bike suppliers and researchers has set up an e-bike trial in Māngere. Taking a strengths-based approach, a three-stage trial process is systematically exploring the potential and practical considerations for routine e-bike use in Māngere. The three stages include: |

1) “Give-it-a-go” ebike workshops: Trying various ebikes in supportive off/on-road environments

2) Ebike daily life trial: Using ebikes in daily life based at home, work, and community locations

3) Affordable ebikes for all: Developing and testing mechanisms for affordable, safe, and user-friendly ebikes.

Stage 1 involved three workshops where community participants could test a range of ebikes in a supportive environment and a final hui to understand perspectives and next steps. Participants enjoyed and greatly appreciated the e-bikes and explored how e-bikes could be used in daily life. There was also support for Stage 2 where e-bikes could be used in more realistic daily settings such as trips to work and other destinations. Stage 2 will involve approximately 20 e-bikes being used in real life settings with corresponding evaluation of use, practical considerations, perspectives, and possible financial models for ongoing use. Stage 3 will focus on the levers that are needed to make e-bikes an accessible and attractive option for low-income communities.