# Two Wheeled Public Transport - a transport equity model

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Abstract only.

Preferred session format: Soapbox or rapid fire

E-bikes are revolutionising transport. They provide a realistic car alternative to diverse groups of people including those with tamariki.

E-bikes are healthier, better for the environment, more fun and cheaper than driving a car. However, despite the lower running and lifetime costs, the upfront costs of e-bikes are not affordable to many.

Two Wheeled Public Transport is a transport equity model addressing barriers to accessing e-bikes for those who would benefit most. 50 e-bikes and e-cargo bikes will be distributed to participants in Wainuiōmata through Kōkiri Marae to pilot the model. A local co-ordinator based at the Marae will support participants and their whānau through all aspects of mode shift including bike skills.

Te Whare Tapa Whā enables a better understanding of the holistic impact this project can have on individuals and whānau. E-bikes are a great way to be active and focus on te taha tinana, this in turn contributes to taha hinengaro, along with the boost riding with friends and whānau has on our mental and emotional wellbeing.

A local co-ordinator will work alongside individuals and their whānau to provide support, train them to ride confidently, and organise events to bring the community together. This aspect of the project has an explicit focus on te taha whānau. Living in balance with the environment and actively reducing transport emissions is a way of protecting Papatūānuku. From a Māori worldview, protecting and living in balance with Papatūānuku is an integral aspect of te taha wairua.

Whakawhanaungatanga is at the heart of this project, which is being developed in partnership with Healthy Families Hutt Valley, Kōkiri Marae, Big Street Bikers and supported by many others. The value of the model goes beyond subsiding e-bike use, the value is in enhancing community and enabling community to care for their people – manaaki tāngata.