**The Vision: Māngere, Bike Capital of the Pacific**

How Auckland Transport are working with community champions to remove the barriers holding back the cycling dream.

Transport accounts for a 44% of Auckland’s carbon emissions. For a low-carbon future, cities need cycling to be an easy and safe travel choice for **all** communities to shift as many trips as possible from cars. However, in many communities the use of bikes has dropped to near zero, particularly for transport, and riding a bike is not seen as something local people do. In these locations the success of urban cycling initiatives hinges not just on the quality of the infrastructure, but equally on quality community engagement, local ownership, and where possible addressing social and economic barriers.

In Māngere, a low socio-economic area of Auckland with a notably low cycling mode share, AT is using a community-centred approach to elevate cycling as a viable transport option. This presentation and panel discussion will focus on the unique collaboration between Auckland Transport, local community champions such as Triple Teez and I AM MANGERE, and funding partners Auckland Council, and Waka Kotahi. AT has a 6+ year programme of investment in permanent cycling infrastructure in Māngere. However, to support this there is a range of actions leading into and through delivery to ensure local people understand and see value in the changes for them. This includes:

* bringing community champions into the project teams,
* collaboration forum with locals for engagement and design,
* trial cycleway to let people see and try cycleways created with road space reallocation, and
* a dedicated multi-year fund for ‘customer growth’ initiatives; bike hubs, rider training, activation, etc. run through AT’s Sustainable Mobility Team

The approach to delivery and community collaboration are geared towards transforming local people’s perception that AT does things ‘**to** the community’ rather than **‘with** the community.'