**Designing a ‘pathway to permanence’ for Māngere e-bike users**

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 lower incomes households may miss-out and be locked into a narrower range of transport options. E-bike trials in Māngere, South Auckland, delivered through Time-to-Thrive (TTT), a local cycling advocacy group, have indicated an unmet potential for e-bike uptake. However, evidence suggests the high cost of an ebike is a barrier to uptake and that some kind of incentive scheme is needed to enable access and stimulate use in Māngere and other low-income areas.

Funding through the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency innovation fund, Hoe ki angitū, was sought for the development and testing of appropriate e-bike incentives for the Māngere community. Following a scan of international examples of e-bike incentive schemes in low-income communities, a co-design hui was organised with TTT and participants of the Māngere E-bike Trials. Participants discussed four e-bike incentive scheme options: purchase discount, loan-to-own scheme, monthly e-bike rental, and a community e-bike library. The hui identified important strengths, barriers, and additional considerations for each incentive scheme option should they be implemented in Māngere. Following this hui, a TTT Community E-bike library has been set-up, in which 20 e-bikes are available, free of charge, for skills training, group rides, and short- or long-term hire.

The community e-bike library aims to understand the potential of e-bike libraries to increase access and incentivise uptake in low-income communities. The Māngere Community trial will also provide valuable findings for the design, set-up, and administration of a community-focused e-bike library. Ultimately, the trial of incentives to e-bike access will provide evidence for national-level policy development around mode shift and access to active travel options for low-income communities.