

Senators Liz Krueger, Pete Harckham, and Kevin Parker

New York State Senate Committees on Finance, Environmental Conservation, and Energy and  
Telecommunications

New York State Climate Action Council Final Scoping Plan

I am submitting this written testimony for consideration by the Senate Committees on Finance, Environmental Conservation, and Energy and Telecommunications as you consider the New York State Climate Action Council Final Scoping Plan. I urge the Senate Committees to include electric bicycles (e-bikes) among the zero-emission electric vehicle transportation options proposed in order to foster fresher air and cleaner communities across the State.

### **Potential for Modeshift and GHG Reduction**

E-bikes have huge potential to reduce carbon emissions by replacing car trips. **E-bikes are ten times more effective at cutting carbon emissions than EVs.** To date, two-and-three wheel vehicles have had a greater impact on reducing carbon emissions than all other electric modes combined. Incentivizing e-bikes is a more cost-effective way to cut carbon emissions than EV subsidies: reallocating existing electric car subsidies of \$7,500 for a single EV could support more than 12 people in the purchase of an e-bike. Unlike EVs, e-bikes also reduce congestion and gridlock in our cities and towns.

### **Transportation Equity**

E-bikes can play a key part in achieving transportation equity. With an average cost of \$9,666 a year before parking costs, owning a car is out of reach for many lower-income New Yorkers across the State. A high-quality e-bike can be purchased for \$1,200, with average total maintenance and charging costs coming to only \$330/year, making e-bikes **uniquely accessible to Disadvantaged Communities.**

### **Health and Wellness**

The Final Scoping Plan's recommendations include healthy living for families through increased active transportation such as walking and biking. Despite their electric power, **e-bikes are considered an active mode of transportation, providing moderate intensity physical activity.** In fact, studies have shown that e-bike riders may get more exercise than analog riders because they tend to choose to ride more often and travel for longer distances. And e-bikes are accessible to all ages and fitness levels, including those who have never ridden before.

By prioritizing e-bikes, you have the opportunity to ensure that climate action and transportation justice go hand in hand, creating a greener, healthier future for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Divya Subramanian

Associate Director, Invest NYC SDG, Center for Sustainable Business, New York University (a partner of the [Equitable Commute Project](#))

