THE PROBLEM. Commute time is the single strongest factor in the odds of escaping poverty: the longer an average commute, the worse the chances of low-income families moving up the economic ladder. Though NYC has a comprehensive public transit network, many New Yorkers live in areas underserved by transit and face long, complex commutes, creating barriers to employment and harming overall wellbeing.

E-BIKES ARE AN EQUITABLE CLIMATE SOLUTION. Electric bicycles (e-bikes) are emerging globally as an attractive sustainable transportation option for trips under five miles—which makes up more than 60% of trips in New York. In NYC, almost two-thirds of all car trips are under five miles, making the potential for modeshift especially high. More convenient and less polluting than a car and cost-competitive with transit, e-bikes appeal to a range of users: according to ECP surveying in the Bronx, 82% of people said they would be interested in trying an e-bike for commuting.

THE EQUITABLE COMMUTE PROJECT. The ECP aims to support access to e-bikes for under-resourced communities in NYC by overcoming the financial, social, and logistical barriers to e-bike purchase and upkeep. ECP Access administers a low-interest e-bike loan, available to individuals with poor credit and allows them to grow their credit history. ECP Green Jobs offers workforce training to ensure underserved New Yorkers are first in line for jobs in the $500B micromobility industry. And ECP Accelerator champions sustainable micromobility through advocacy, education, and outreach, serving as a resource center for micromobility best practices and expansion across the globe.
KEY METRICS

E-BIKE POTENTIAL

1 MILLION TRIPS PER DAY. THE # OF DAILY BIKE TRIPS WE’D SEE IN NYC IF E-BIKES WERE EASIER TO ACCESS

82% OF PEOPLE SURVEYED SAID THEY’D BE INTERESTED IN TRYING AN E-BIKE FOR COMMUTING

1 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL IS DISPLACED EACH DAY DUE TO TRIPS ON 2/3 WHEEL VEHICLES (GLOBALLY)

12% OF TRANSPORT EMISSIONS COULD BE REDUCED IF WE SHIFTED JUST 15% OF CAR TRIPS TO E-BIKES

ECP IMPACT

$100 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES CATALYZED

125 HOURS SAVED IN COMMUTING PER PERSON PER YEAR

2,500 LBS CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCED PER PERSON

15,000+ NEW E-BIKE COMMUTERS INSPIRED

10 NEW E-BIKE EQUITY PROGRAMS LAUNCHED WITH GUIDANCE FROM ECP TEAM

THE ECP IS LED BY

WWW.EQUITABLECOMMUTE.ORG
Dozens of lithium-ion battery fires have raised fears about the safety of e-bike storage and charging in NYC. The NY City Council is considering a bill to require UL certification for all e-bikes and batteries sold in the city, but these bikes are expensive, costing upward of $2,500.

In order to stop the fires without impacting the livelihoods of 65k working cyclists, the city must create an e-bike fund to make UL-certified bikes financially accessible. The ECP and its partners stand ready to support a trade-in program to allow workers to upgrade to safe, street-legal e-bikes. Such a program would provide a discounted UL-certified e-bike in exchange for trading in a non-compliant model. Bikes could be purchased through approved NYC-owned stores, and old batteries could be recycled with Call2Recycle. Accessible financing is available through ECP partner Spring Bank to cover the remaining cost.

Contact melinda@brightside.city to learn more.