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E-bikes are wonderfully effective mobility tools. They help people make quick, safe trips with zero emissions or congestion. They can easily replace many car trips, from commuting and school/child care to shopping and socializing. This improves public health by both increasing physical activity at the same time as reducing driving and its negative impact on air quality and road injuries/fatalities. It also provides flexible, independent travel options, especially in regions or at times of day where transit service is infrequent or unavailable.

The main barrier is cost. Even while electric bikes are vastly cheaper than electric cars, the price of an e-bike can still prevent people from taking advantage of this effective transportation solution. I live in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Portland and we have started a small e-bike sharing program to help fill this access gap, but more help is needed all throughout our state. I support providing financial assistance to help people who want e-bikes to get one, especially for people with limited means. Using existing eligibility programs to streamline access is also a smart move to serve this program efficiently.