

# Electric bikes in the Dunedin community

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# Introduction

(ဒီးတန်းဒီး + ဒေါ်တင်ဂို) တို့အားရည်စူး၍  
ဒီးညိုငယ် + ဒေါ်တင် ကြည် + မိသားစု ကောင်းမှု



# Introduction

## Cycling as active transport

- Environmentally sustainable
- 'Fit and frugal'

But, there are known barriers to cycling (Heinen et al., 2010):

- Topography
- Long trip distances
- Lack of physical fitness.

**E-bikes** – the potential answer to these barriers?



# **Aim**

**What are peoples' experiences of using an e-bike in Dunedin?**

# **Methodology**

**A single focus group, e-bike users (5 male, 3 female; age range 23 to 80 years old).**

**Thematic analysis.**



**The Good**

**The Bad**

**& The Ugly**

# The Good



LANDS

Zekerheit & vorst vor  
Belang & moedern

RISCO PRO

ALPINE

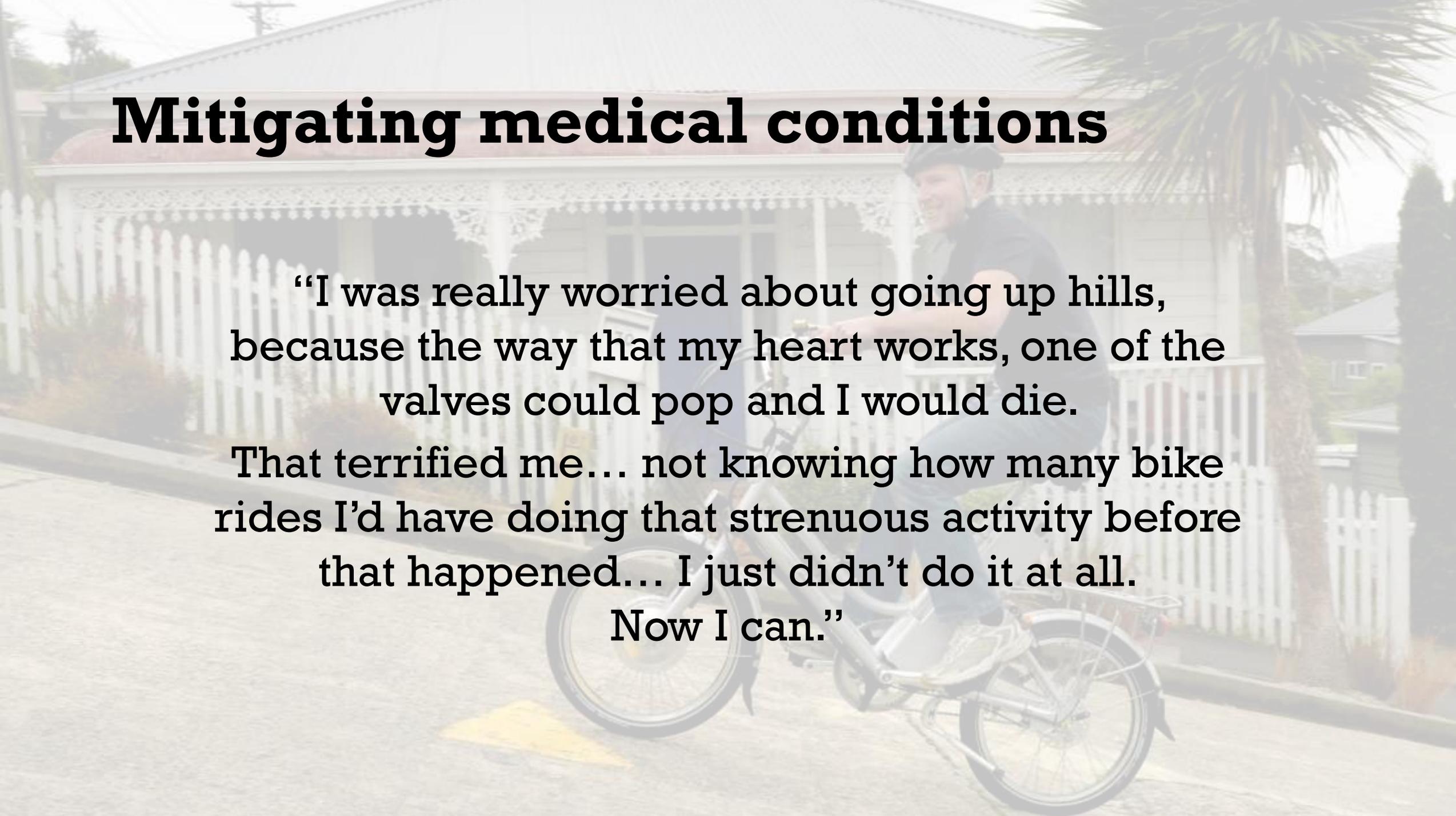
# Mitigating age-related decline

“If you get to eighty, you’re probably not going to ride an ordinary bike up North Road are you? It’s just going to be non-event.

But, the ability to get on a bike at that age, it gives you a fantastic feeling of freedom and achievement and ‘Look what I’ve done for myself.’ As long as you don’t fall off on the way.”



# **Mitigating medical conditions**

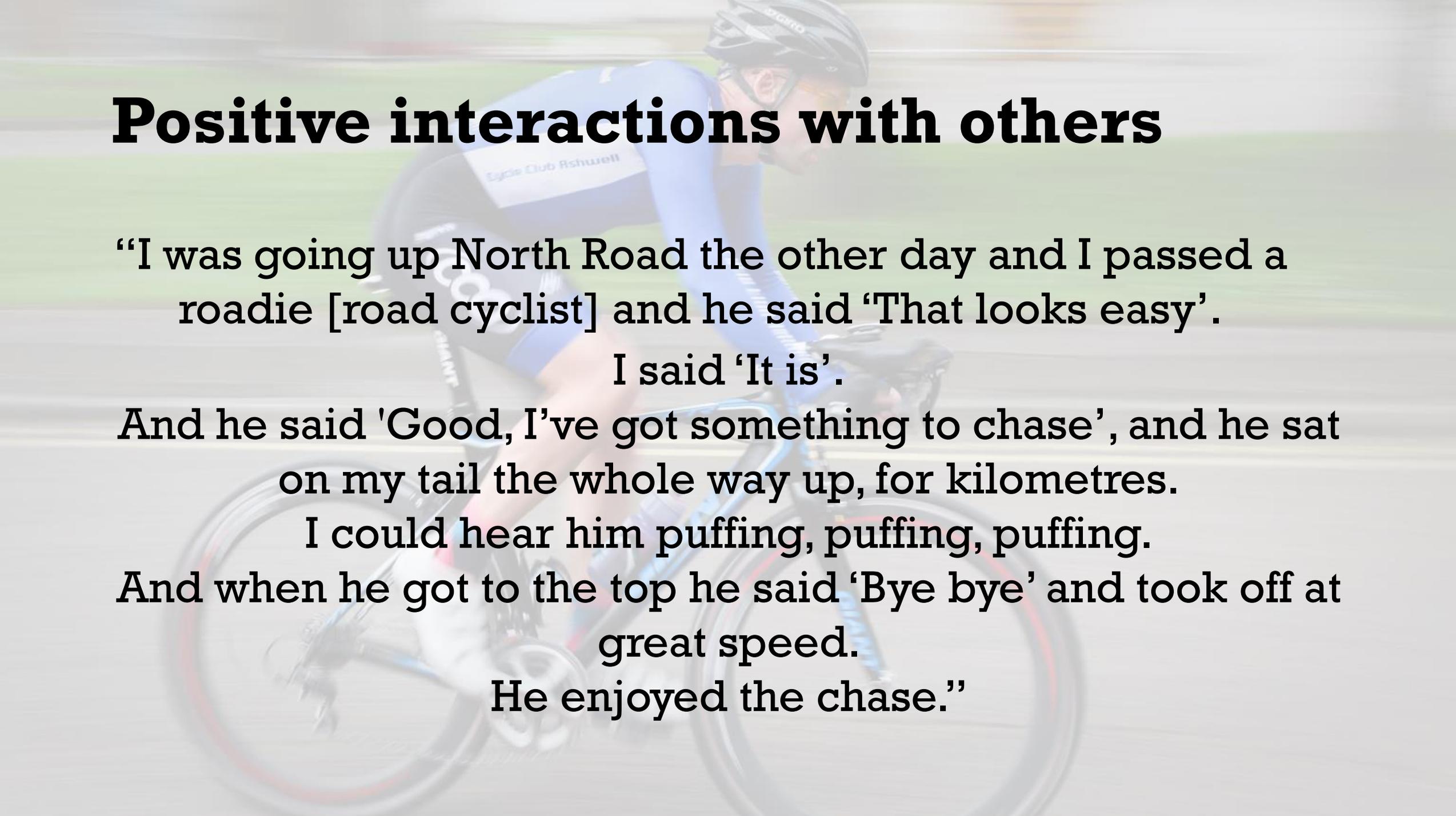
A person wearing a black helmet and a dark shirt is riding a bicycle on a paved residential street. The background shows a white picket fence, a house with a white porch, and a palm tree. The scene is slightly faded to make the text stand out.

**“I was really worried about going up hills, because the way that my heart works, one of the valves could pop and I would die.**

**That terrified me... not knowing how many bike rides I'd have doing that strenuous activity before that happened... I just didn't do it at all.**

**Now I can.”**



A cyclist in a blue and black jersey is riding a road bike on a road. The cyclist is wearing a black helmet and is leaning forward in a racing position. The background is a blurred road and greenery, suggesting motion. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Positive interactions with others

“I was going up North Road the other day and I passed a roadie [road cyclist] and he said ‘That looks easy’.

I said ‘It is’.

And he said ‘Good, I’ve got something to chase’, and he sat on my tail the whole way up, for kilometres.

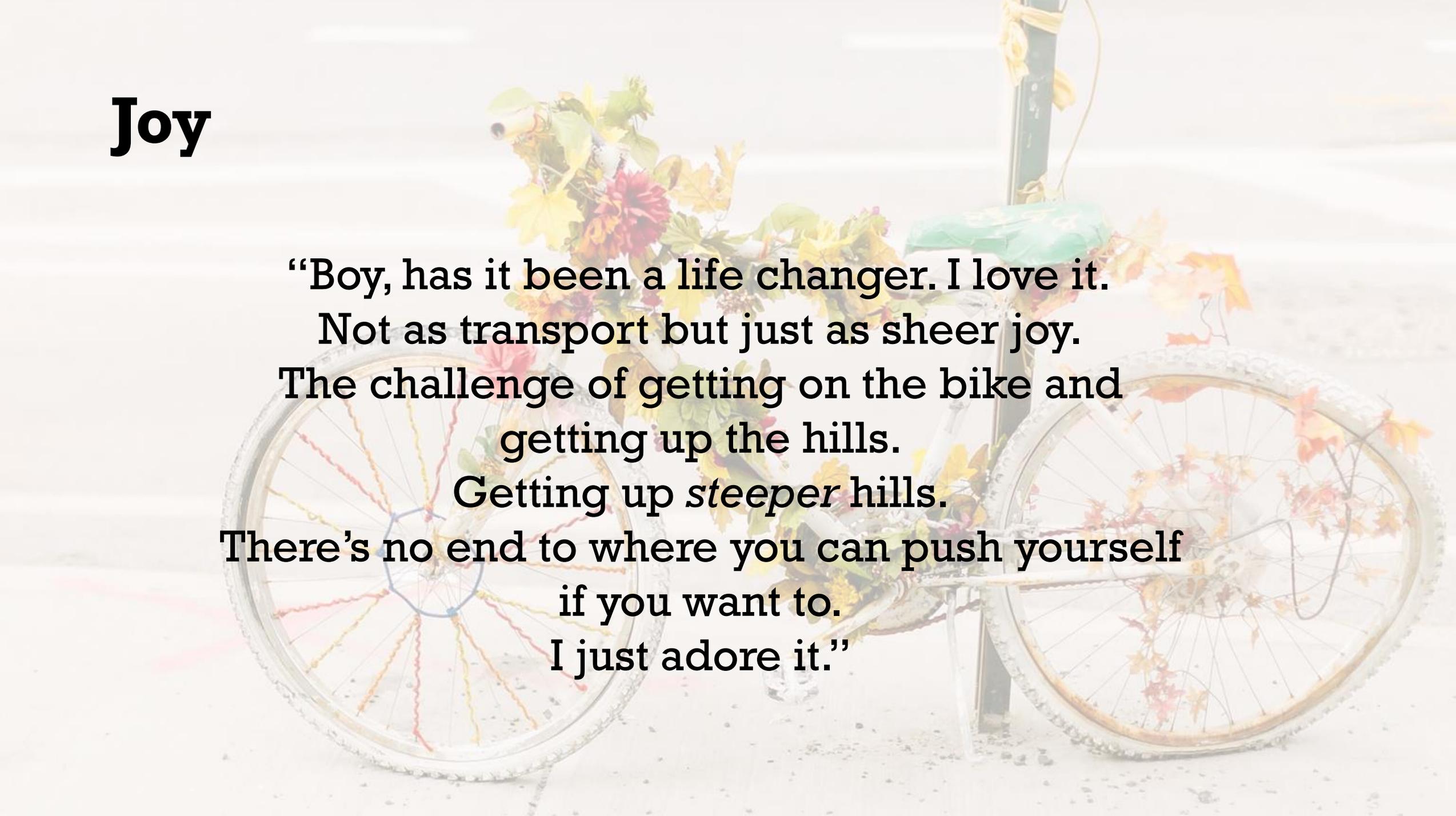
I could hear him puffing, puffing, puffing.

And when he got to the top he said ‘Bye bye’ and took off at great speed.

He enjoyed the chase.”



# Joy

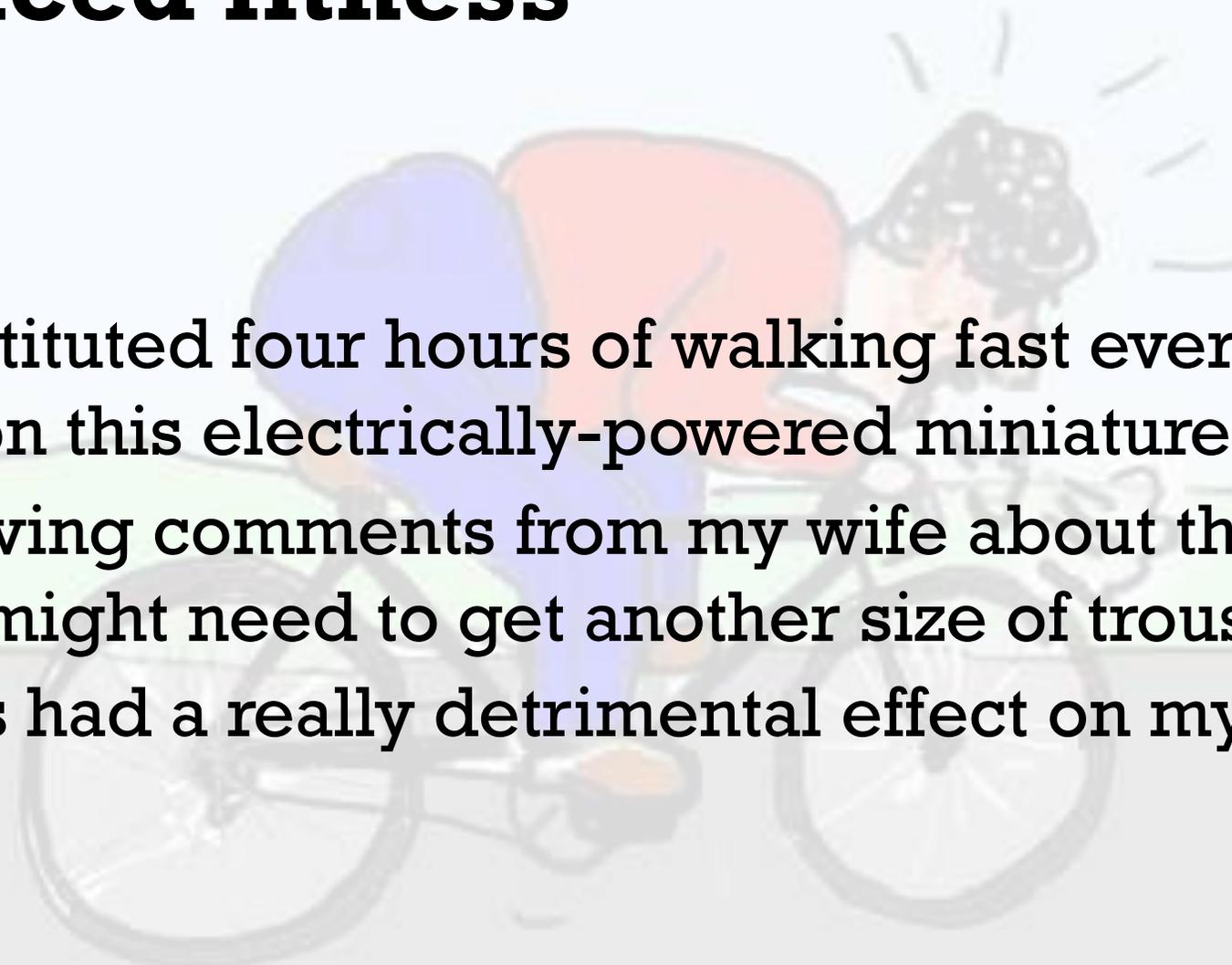
A bicycle is the central focus, leaning against a dark post. The bike is heavily decorated with autumn-themed items: a large bouquet of colorful flowers (red, yellow, orange) and green leaves is attached to the handlebars. The wheels are also decorated with colorful, wavy lines. The background is a bright, overexposed outdoor setting, possibly a beach or a park, with a sandy ground and a blurred horizon.

“Boy, has it been a life changer. I love it.  
Not as transport but just as sheer joy.  
The challenge of getting on the bike and  
getting up the hills.  
Getting up *steeper* hills.  
There’s no end to where you can push yourself  
if you want to.  
I just adore it.”

# The Bad



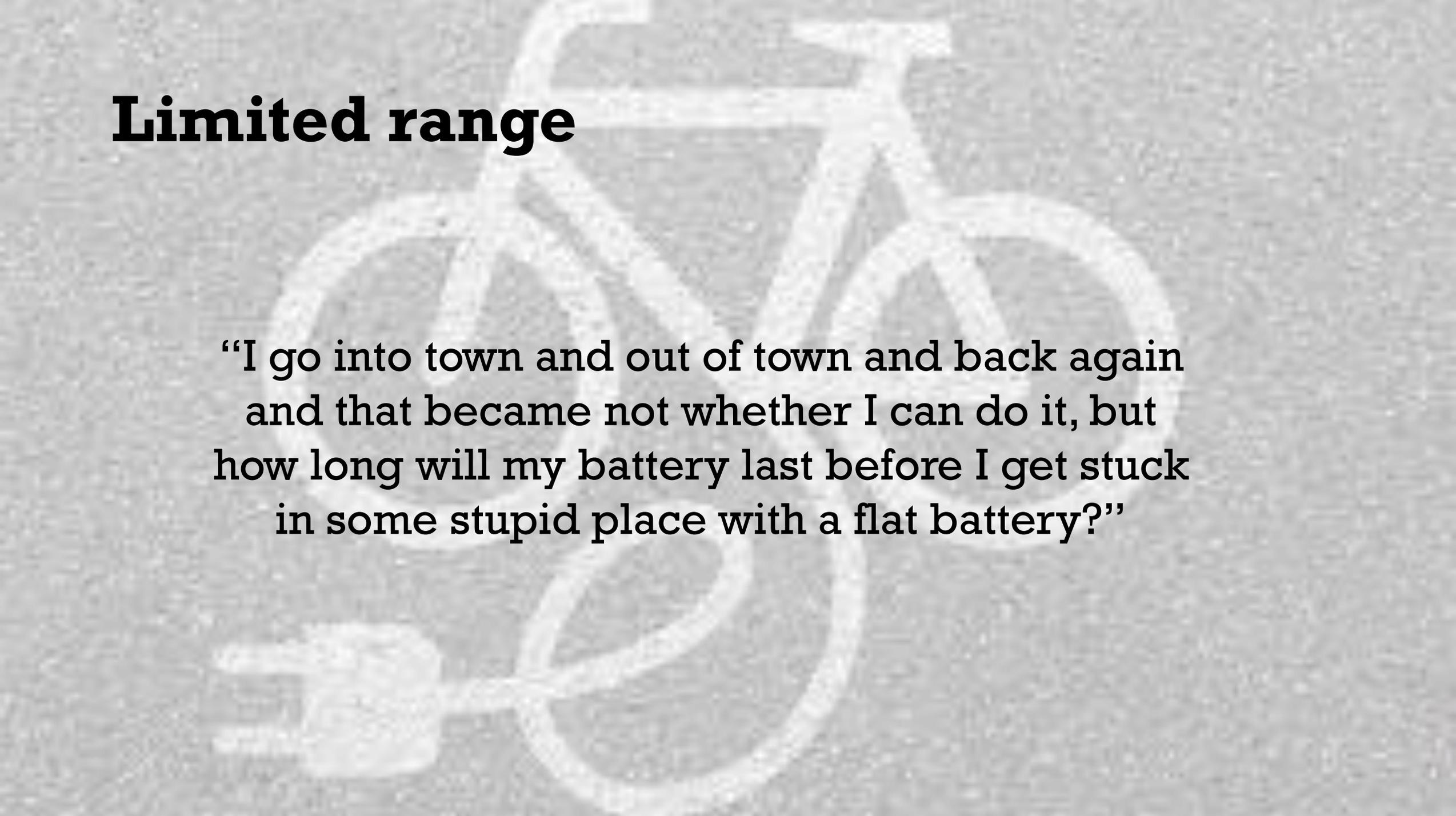
# Reduced fitness



**“I substituted four hours of walking fast every week for sitting on this electrically-powered miniature motorbike. And having comments from my wife about the fact that I might need to get another size of trousers. So it’s had a really detrimental effect on my fitness.”**



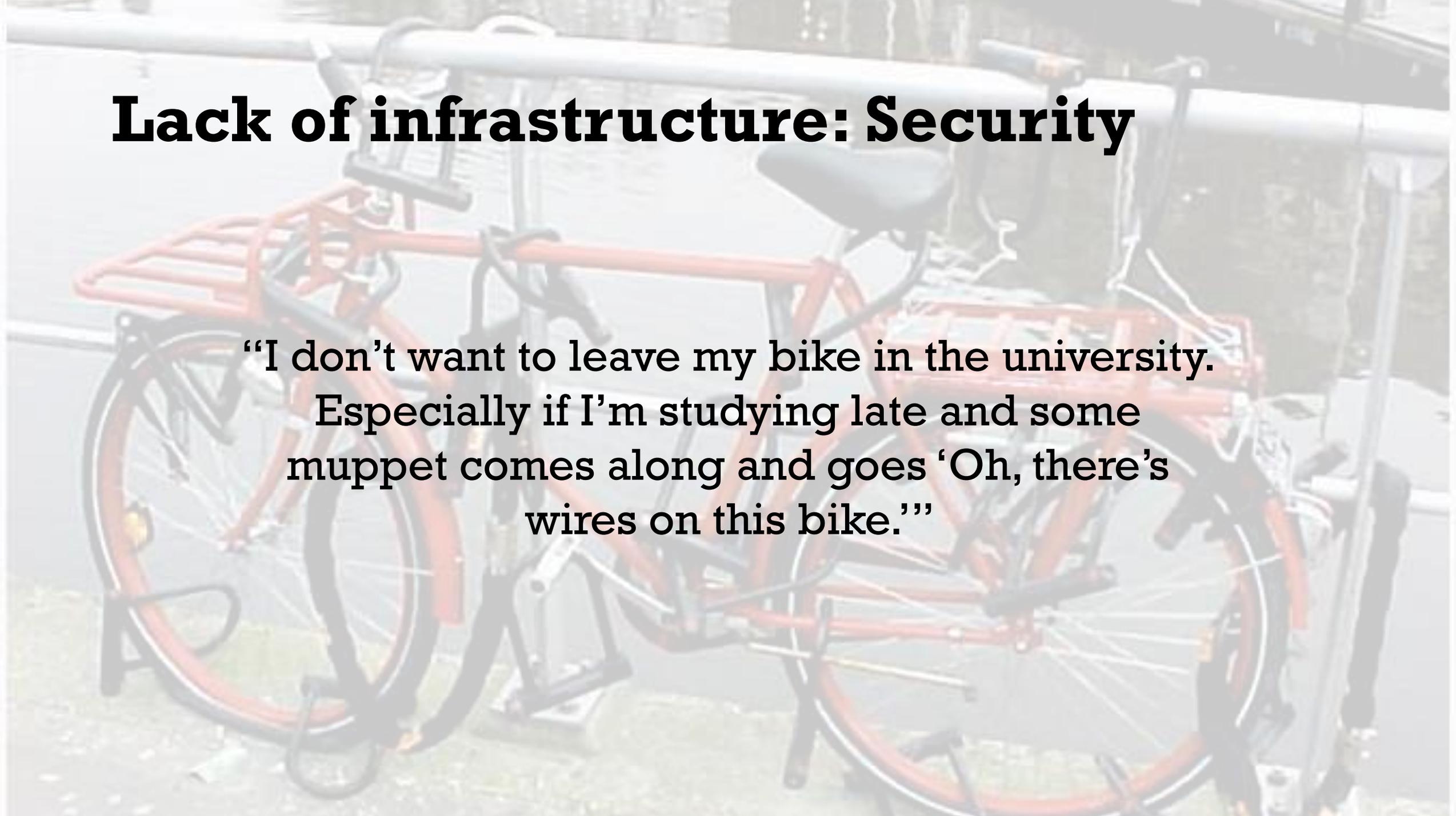
# Limited range



“I go into town and out of town and back again and that became not whether I can do it, but how long will my battery last before I get stuck in some stupid place with a flat battery?”

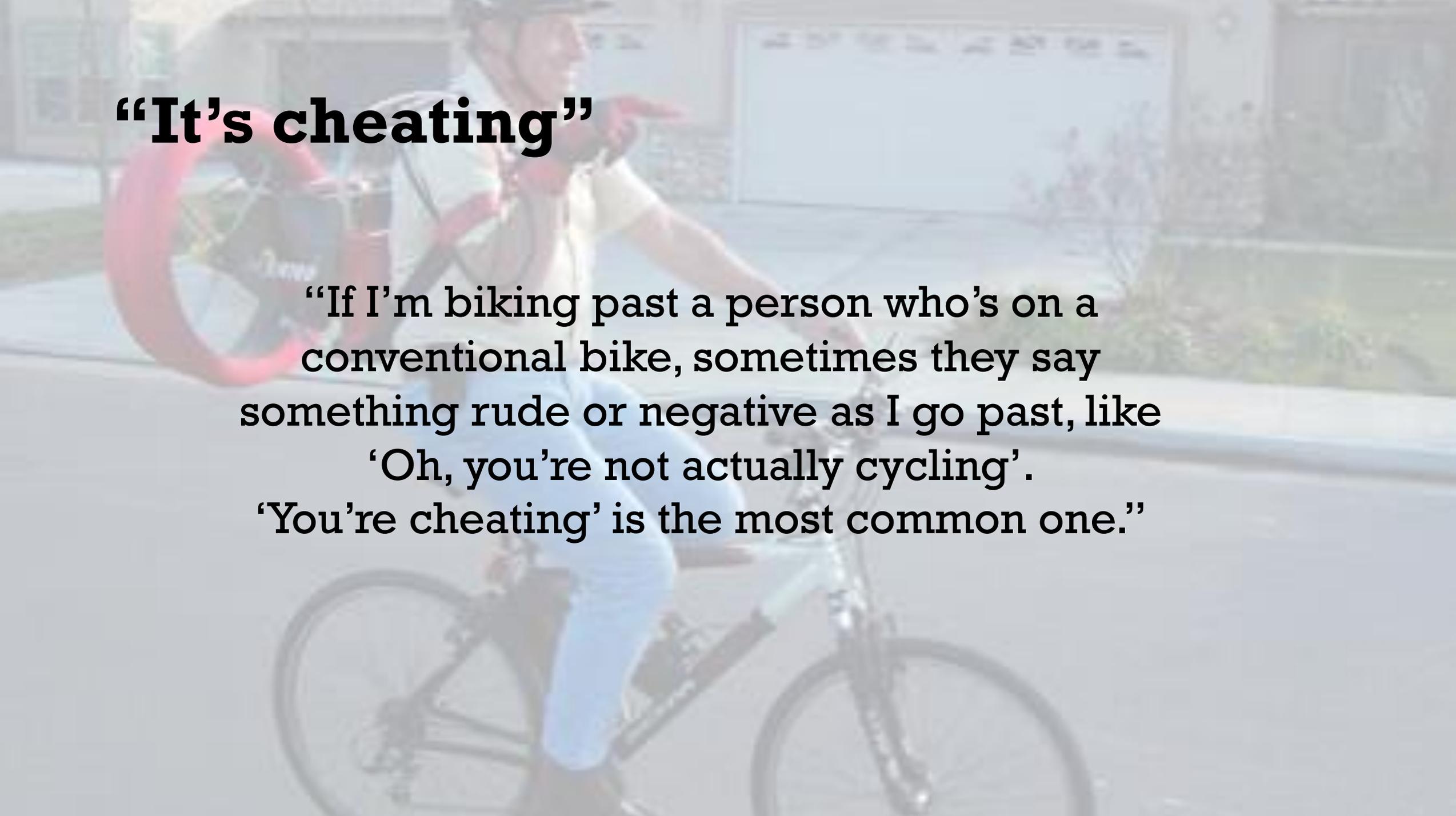


# **Lack of infrastructure: Security**

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale image of a bicycle rack. The rack consists of several horizontal metal bars. Several bicycles are parked in the rack, with their frames and wheels visible. The overall image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly legible over it.

**“I don’t want to leave my bike in the university.  
Especially if I’m studying late and some  
muppet comes along and goes ‘Oh, there’s  
wires on this bike.’”**



A person is riding a bicycle on a paved path. The bicycle has a distinctive red cover over the rear wheel. The rider is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and blue jeans. The background is slightly blurred, showing a building and some greenery.

# **“It’s cheating”**

**“If I’m biking past a person who’s on a conventional bike, sometimes they say something rude or negative as I go past, like ‘Oh, you’re not actually cycling’. ‘You’re cheating’ is the most common one.”**

# The Ugly



# **Other road users' attitudes**

**“I’ve had guys roll down the window and  
scream swear words at me.**

**I’ve had people try and drive into me.**

**Unfortunately, you have people in  
society that are like that.**

**I didn’t ride my bike for six  
months because I was terrified.”**

# Conclusion

E-bikes helped users to tackle well-known barriers to cycling:

- Topography
- Fitness
- Trip distance

But they also offer so much more: Joy, independence, mobility.

However, there are still some perceived issues:

- Infrastructure
- Battery range
- Attitudes

The positives outweighed the negatives.

A bicycle is leaning against a set of concrete stairs. The stairs have a glass railing with a metal handrail. The background is a light-colored wall with vertical panels. The overall scene is brightly lit, possibly by natural light from a window or door.

**Thanks for listening**

**Any questions?**



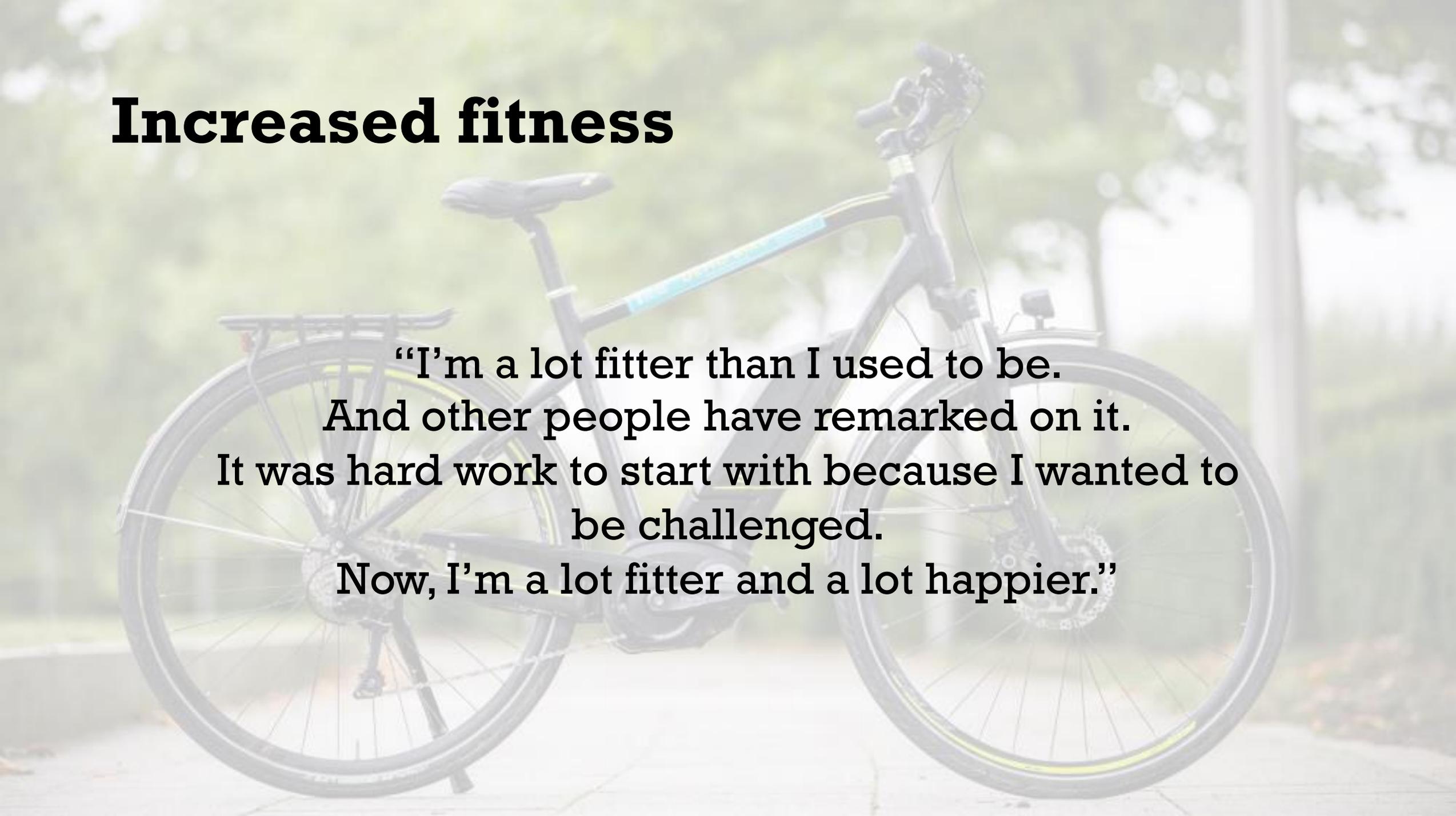
# Tackling the weather

A cyclist wearing a blue and green jersey is riding a road bike on a paved road. In the background, a large wind turbine is visible against a hazy sky. The scene is set on a coastal road with a concrete barrier and a red van parked on the side.

“When I’m cycling in the wind, it’s a huge advantage. There was a guy who was using a conventional bike. I’ve seen him really struggle back up the Peninsula Road and he’s barely moving against the wind. I’m just going, ‘Yeah, well, whatever.’ I’ve just cranked it up.”



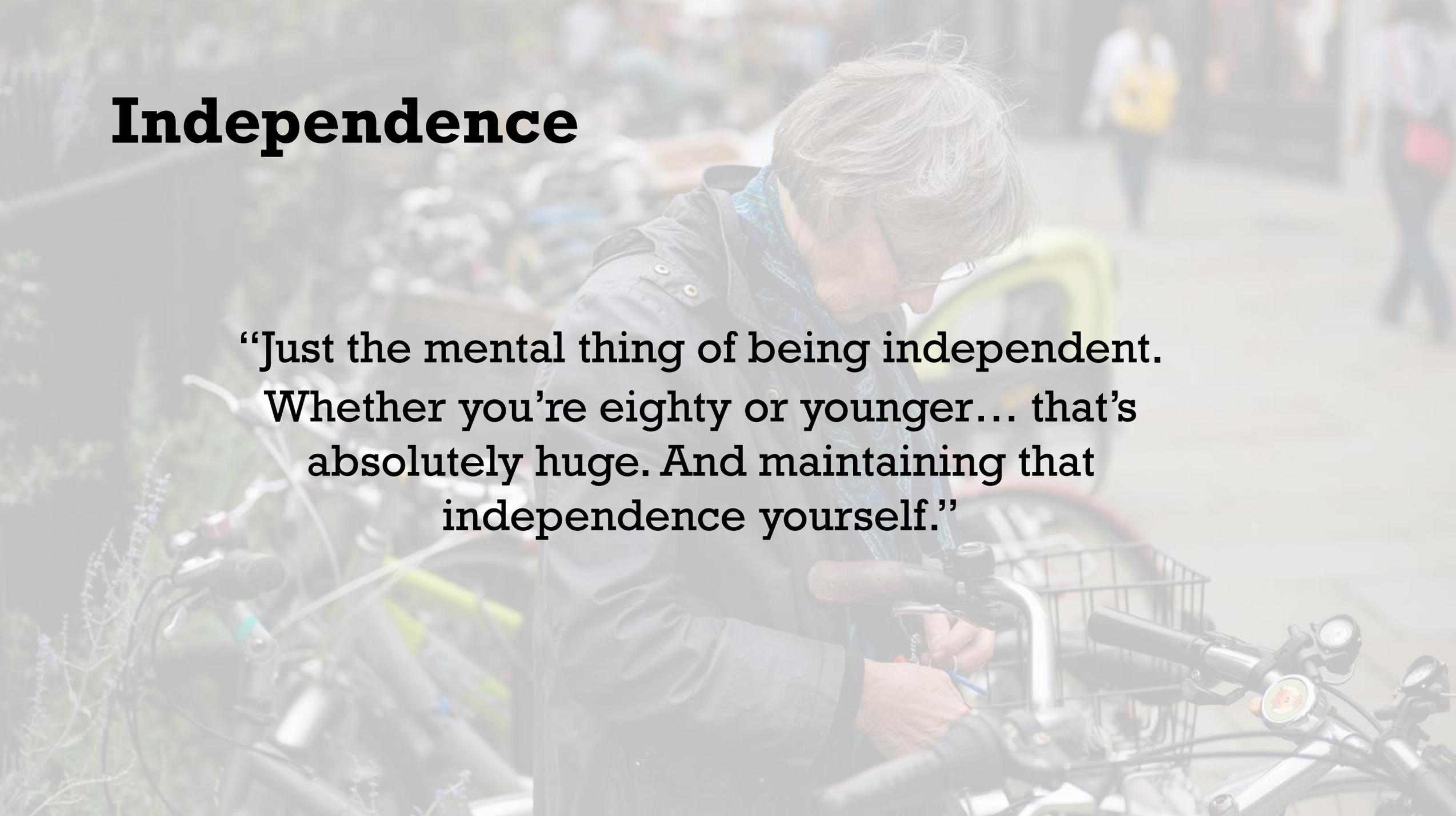
# **Increased fitness**



**“I’m a lot fitter than I used to be.  
And other people have remarked on it.  
It was hard work to start with because I wanted to  
be challenged.  
Now, I’m a lot fitter and a lot happier.”**



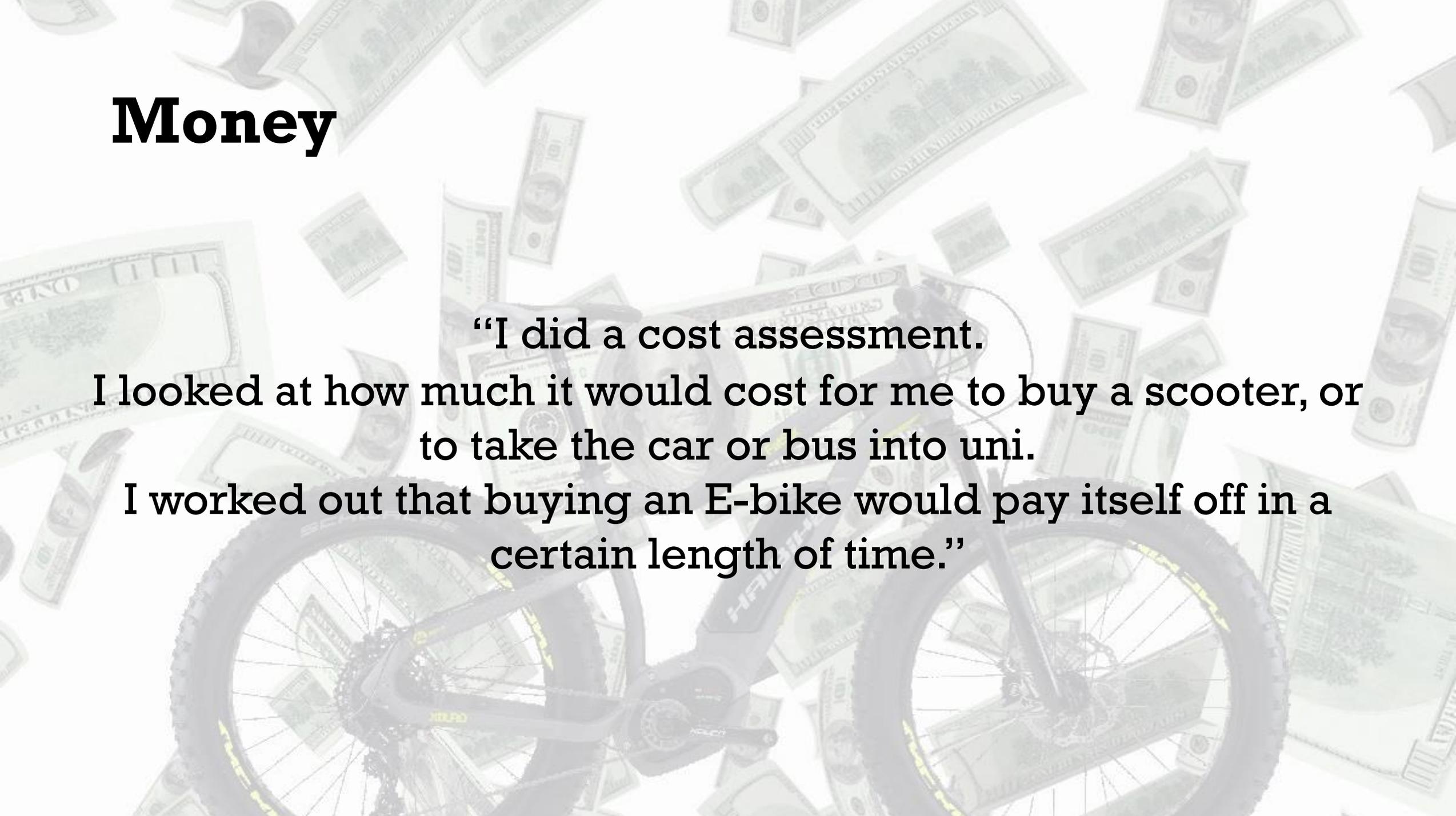
# **Independence**



**“Just the mental thing of being independent. Whether you’re eighty or younger... that’s absolutely huge. And maintaining that independence yourself.”**



# **Money**

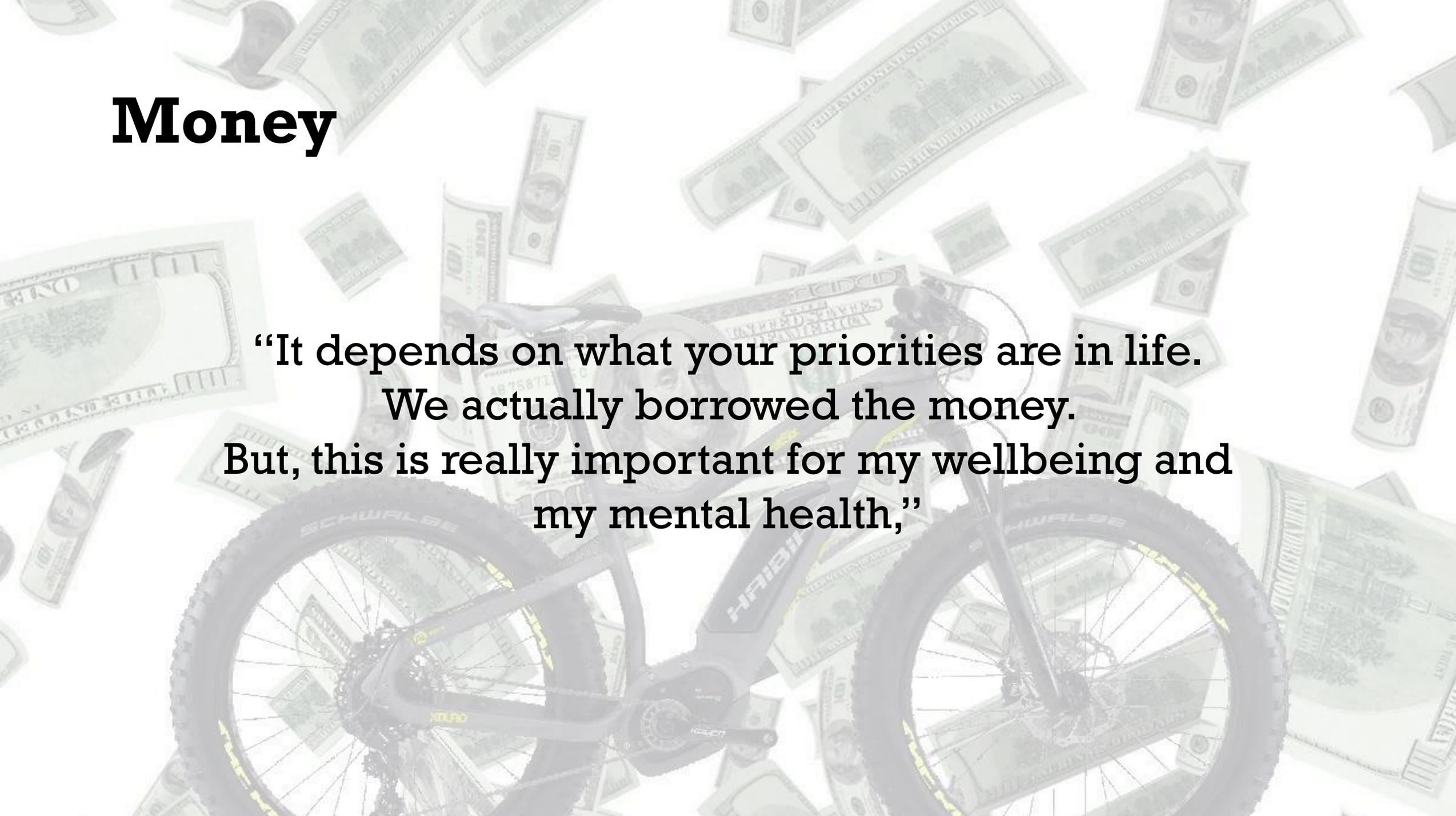
The background of the slide is a light gray color. It features a semi-transparent image of a bicycle in the center, with its wheels and frame visible. Scattered all over the background are numerous US dollar bills, including \$100 and \$20 bills, some of which are partially obscured by the bicycle or other bills.

**“I did a cost assessment.**

**I looked at how much it would cost for me to buy a scooter, or  
to take the car or bus into uni.**

**I worked out that buying an E-bike would pay itself off in a  
certain length of time.”**

# Money

The background of the slide is a light gray, semi-transparent image. It features a bicycle in the center, with its frame and wheels visible. Scattered all around the bicycle are numerous US dollar bills, including \$100 and \$20 bills, some of which are partially obscured or overlapping. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on the theme of money and its relationship to the bicycle.

**“It depends on what your priorities are in life.  
We actually borrowed the money.  
But, this is really important for my wellbeing and  
my mental health,”**