

INGENIOUS IDEAS DEPARTMENT

Innovative Bikes

(NAPSA)—Imagine if one of America's most respected automobile manufacturers decided to apply its engineering know-how to create a 21st century bicycle. Think about the possibilities of bicycling further, faster and easier with just the flick of a switch.



GETTING INTO GEAR—Ford has reduced the price of its electric pedal-assist TH!NK bike *traveler* to \$1095.

The bicycles, built by Ford Motor Company's TH!NK Group, are aptly called *traveler* and *fun*. The *fun* has a rigid frame and comfortable upright riding position, on a traditional profile. The *traveler* has a compact, foldable frame with quick-release seat and handlebars for easy portability and storage. The company has recently reduced the price of its TH!NK bike *traveler*.

In both versions, a removable lead-acid battery powers a 24-volt, 400-watt electric motor to assist pedaling at the flick of a switch. The bikes are rechargeable in about four hours by plugging into a standard AC outlet.

TH!NK bike *fun* can run about 22 miles between charges, while the smaller *traveler* can run 17-18 miles. Top speed for both is about 19-20 mph. A price reduction of \$100 on the TH!NK bike *traveler* lowers the price to \$1095. The TH!NK bike *fun* will continue to retail for \$995. The bikes are sold through select dealers and over the Internet at www.thinkmobility.com.