

23. INTRODUCTION TO THE 'SAFE CYCLING TO SCHOOL' PROJECT

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Corporate Plan Output:	

The purpose of this report is to introduce the 'Safe Cycling to School' project involving **Papanui High School** to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board.

The City Councils 'Safe Cycling to School' project aims, through identifying problem spots and finding engineering solutions, to help children cycle safely and conveniently to school.

'Safe Cycling to School' co-exists with the Council's two other school travel schemes: 'Cycle Safe' cycle competency training and the 'Safe Routes to School'. These tend to focus on primary school children (aged 5-10) and, until 'Safe Cycling to School', a gap existed in the support programme for older children.

The 'Safe Cycling to School' project focuses primarily on the provision of physical works.

THE 'SAFE CYCLING TO SCHOOL' PROCESS (IN BRIEF)

1. Schools are identified for investigation, based on those with the highest existing cyclist volumes (estimated by bike shed bicycle counts), and proximity to other schools, either a high or intermediate. This enables a 'cluster' effect to allow effort/funding to be concentrated in a particular area.
2. Schools are invited to participate. Students then complete questionnaires, which aim to identify and gather details of the most worrying locations from a child cyclist point of view.

Papanui School:

Total number of students – 1,101.

363 Questionnaires returned: 33% sample size.

Of this sample:

43% of the girls had cycled to school at some point.

61% of the boys had cycled to school at some point.

3. The top 'danger spot' locations are identified from the returned questionnaires for further investigation. These tend to be very specific stretches of road or intersections.
4. The most worrying locations are then observed at on-site investigations, which aim to look more closely at the safety issues raised in the returned questionnaires.
5. Coinciding with these on-site investigations, immediately neighbouring households are asked about any problems they have, or have noted others experiencing. This allows for a more balanced set of views-points during the on-site investigations.
6. Developed from the on-site investigations are Scheme Plans. These list the engineering improvements necessary to improve the safety of children cycling to school. The Scheme Plans are distributed as publicity pamphlets to the school community, local libraries, City Council lists of interested parties and to neighbours including, again, the immediately neighbouring households.
7. Following consultation, changes to the original Scheme Plan are made, as newly raised issues need resolving.
8. After construction, traffic safety education will be essential within the schools on how best to use any new cycling facilities in the area.

CURRENT SITUATION FOR THE PAPANUI PROJECT

The questionnaires have been returned and '3 Top Danger Spots for Cycle Safety Concerns' have been identified. Next, these three most worrying locations will be observed at on-site investigations, which aim to look more closely at the safety issues raised in the returned questionnaires.

Rank	Location	Description	Mentions
1	Northcote Rd – at the intersections with Cavendish Rd, Uxbridge St and the Railway cycle path 32 children identified problems		
	Uxbridge St - Railway cycle path	Too fast / busy	17
		Difficult to cross	6
		Difficult to judge traffic (train lines and cars turning)	4
		No lights or refuge island: get stranded	3
	Cavendish Rd - Railway cycle path	Too fast / busy	12
		Difficult to cross	5
		Dangerous	3
		Difficult to judge traffic (train lines and cars turning)	2
		No lights or refuge island: get stranded	1
2	Sawyers Arms – Northcote Rd intersection		
	11 children identified problems	Too fast / busy	5
		Difficult to cross	3
		Turning traffic causes problems	3
		Island / narrow lanes cause problems	2
3	Greers Rd – Langdons Rd intersection		
	9 children identified problems	Difficult to cross / turn right	10
		Too fast / busy	4
		Dangerous	3

THE NEXT STAGES OF THE PROCESS

Following the on-site investigations, Council staff will work through issues needing resolving, before the Scheme Plans are drawn up for Northcote Road (the intersections with Cavendish Rd, Uxbridge St and the Railway cycle path) and the other two locations, depending on available funding. The Scheme Plans will be brought to the Board before putting them out for public consultation.

Board members are welcome to voice any queries, concerns or personal perspectives about these locations to: Victoria Lawson, 371 1614 or Victoria.Lawson@ccc.govt.nz.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.