

6. CHRISTCHURCH TO LITTLE RIVER CYCLEWAY/WALKWAY PROPOSAL

Officer responsible
City Streets Manager

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the development of a combined 50km cycleway/walkway between Christchurch and Little River. This report seeks to ascertain if the Council is supportive of this development and if it wishes to make a commitment to it via the Cycleways Capital Budget.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

The idea for this continuous route from Christchurch to Little River stems from existing initiatives in the area. Different organisations were working, independently, to plan towards the development of various stretches of cycleway/walkway as detailed below:

- A rail trail for cyclists/walkers along the old railway embankment between Motukarara and Little River, promoted by Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation. Together with the Birdlings Flat to Little River section, under the Wairewa Community Development Trust.
- A cycleway/walkway for commuters between Prebbleton and Lincoln, promoted by the Transport Studies Group and Lincoln University, along with Selwyn District Council.
- Development of the cycleway network of Christchurch City Council.

Planning and coordination is being overseen by the Christchurch-Little River Cycleway Working Group. They need help with the development of other stretches of the route.

The Christchurch to Little River Cycleway Working Group includes representatives and/or staff from:

- Environment Canterbury
- Banks Peninsula District Council
- Christchurch City Council
- Selwyn District Council
- Lincoln Community Committee
- Prebbleton Community Association
- Riccarton-Wigram Community Board
- Transit New Zealand
- Transfund
- Land Transport Safety Authority
- Department of Conservation
- Federated Farmers
- Transport Studies Group Lincoln University

The development of this cycleway/walkway offers a great opportunity for people to work together to create a continuous route from Christchurch to Little River. Most of the path will be off-road, and will boast a whole range of benefits to Christchurch and its out-lying regions:

- Safe and enjoyable surroundings in which to promote cycling and walking.
- A community asset.
- An opportunity for tourism and employment development.
- A means of outdoor recreation for health and well-being.
- An opportunity for environmental enhancement and education.
- A promotion for a more sustainable transport mode that helps reduce air pollution, road congestion and energy use.

Little River, itself, is also the gateway to many more exciting cycling and walking tracks on Banks Peninsula.

CURRENT SITUATION OF THE PROJECT

The Working Group has consulted with key groups including landowners along the route and is about to embark on a more widespread public consultation process.

The Government and the Minister of Transport would like to see more people cycling and walking as they are both practical forms of transport and ways to encourage healthier lifestyles. It is possible that a subsidy for the cycleway development in the vicinity of 50% could be available from the fund administered by Transfund for promoting cycling and walking. We have been advised by Transfund that a subsidy will have to be applied for by the District Councils rather than by the Regional Council.

THE NEXT STAGES

The promotion of the cycleway/walkway has reached a critical stage if it is to progress. The Christchurch to Little River Cycleway/Walkway Working Group is seeking confirmation of the support of Christchurch City Council for this project.

Other organisations who have committed their support for the project (at 29.7.02):

- Environment Canterbury,
- Banks Peninsula District Council,
- Department of Conservation,
- Wairewa Community Development Trust,
- Lincoln-Prebbleton Community Association,
- Motukarara Community Association,
- Little River Community Association.

The project needs links to join Christchurch and the priority link identified would go from city centre/Hornby to the commuter route between Prebbleton and Lincoln. Whilst the complete route makes this a cross-boundary project, any City Council capital funding will only be spent within the city boundary.

RECOMMENDATION

At the moment the Christchurch to Little River Cycleway/Walkway Working Group are looking for support in principle from the Council. It is recommended that the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee:

- (a) Confirm its support for the Christchurch to Little River cycleway and walkway;
- (b) Support the concept and planning to investigate the siting of the Christchurch part of the route along the two likely options at this point in time - the southern motorway and Hornby industrial line. (There is still a lot of groundwork to be done and there will be further reports on this project).
- (c) Support the budget allowance noted within the cycleways 5 year capital budget for the development of the links from the city – within the Christchurch boundaries.

The matter was recently considered at a meeting of the Cycle Steering Group which supports the recommendation listed below.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	✓✓	Promotes cycling and walking: Environmentally benign forms of transport – no use of fossil fuels
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	✓✓	Promotes cycling and walking: Benign forms of transport – no fuel emissions/fumes/smells/noise
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	✓✓	Scope for planting along the sides of the cycleway walkway, allowing for a 'green corridor' for plants and wildlife. An opportunity for environmental enhancement and education
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step

The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	✓✓	Promotes mobility for all. Cycling a form of independent transport available to those too young to drive a car, and those who may not be able to afford to run a car for themselves.
P2	Full potential developed	0	
P3	Social capital enhanced	0	
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓✓	A means of outdoor recreation for health and well-being for locals. Scope for future sculpture/art works.
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	0	
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	0	
E2	Job rich local economy	✓✓	An opportunity for tourism and employment development
E3	Financial sustainability	0	

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Christchurch to Little River walking/cycleway project be supported subject to funding approval.
 2. That the Council consider capital provision for the Christchurch section of the Christchurch to Little River Cycleway/Walkway project as part of its 2003/04 annual plan process.
 3. That the Council investigate alternatives linkages and routes to join up with the cycleway.