

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

The Board received an update on the 'Safe Cycling to School' project involving Christchurch Girls' High and Boys' High Schools.

The City Council's '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.

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. The top 'danger spot' locations are identified from the returned questionnaires for further investigation. These tend to be specific stretches of road or intersections. 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.

Following consultation, changes to the original Scheme Plan are made, as newly raised issues need resolving. After construction, traffic safety education will be essential within the schools on how best to use any new cycling facilities in the area.

The questionnaires have been returned and the '3 Top Danger Spots for Cycle Safety Concerns' have been calculated from responses from both schools.

<u>Rank</u>	Location
1	Straven Road - Crossing point at Matai Street
2	Riccarton-Straven-Clarence intersection
3	Hagley 'fringe' – Matai-Deans & Fendalton-Harper intersection

In the pipeline are other 'Safe Cycling to School' projects in the Riccarton/Wigram ward. In December 2001, Branston Intermediate children completed questionnaires and on-site investigations will take place in February, when the children return to school. Hornby High has agreed to take part in a 'safe Cycling to School' project and questionnaires will be distributed to students in February, when they too, return to school. The Board will be kept informed of the progress of these investigations.

The Board **received** the report.