

12. LITTLE RIVER RAIL TRAIL - DEVELOPMENT PLAN



General Manager responsible:	General Manager, City Environment Group, DDI 941 8608
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Transport and Greenspace,
Authors:	Michael Ferigo, Transport Planner, Cycling & Pedestrians Lorraine Correia, Consultation Leader

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board to consider the community consultation on the options for the final stage of the rail trail and recommend the Little River Rail Trail Development Plan preferred Option 3 (refer **attachment 1**) to the Council for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council recommended that staff be requested to progress consultation with the community on two long term options for the completion of the Little River section of the Rail Trail, leading to a recommendation to inform the 2009-19 LTCCP (now 2012-22), noting that the Community Board's preferred option at its meeting 20 March 2008 was Long Term Option 1.
3. Consultation has recently been completed on the long term options, with the process and outcome of the consultation being included in this report.
4. During consultation it became apparent that Option 1 would not be able to be achieved on the alignment described in the public information leaflet, as several property owners had not been contacted and would not in fact agree to an easement across their property.
5. The feedback gave a preference for Option 1 however with the impasse on the trails alignment over the private properties, staff subsequently identified an additional option (Option 3) that is substantially the same as the Community Board and community's preferred option, but removes the need to use private property.
6. The additional trail variation titled 'Option 3' was presented to a seminar of the Community Board on 7 October 2009 where it received favourable consideration. It is this option that is now being presented to the Community Board for its recommendation to the Council and its inclusion into the 2012-2022 LTCCP.
7. All submitters to the community consultation have been advised of the suggested additional Option 3.
8. Surveying, detailed alignment, drainage costings and other trail costs for Option 3, along with potential financial contributions from stakeholders, will be determined prior to application to the 2012-2022 LTCCP, assuming Councils adoption of the indicative Option 3 trail as its preferred option.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The capital funding for a long term option for the Little River township section of the Rail Trail is not currently included in the 2009-19 LTCCP. The project will need to be submitted as part of the 2012-22 LTCCP review for inclusion in a future capital programme.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with the 2009-19 LTCCP ?

10. The funding for the completion of the Little River Rail Trail is not included in the 2009-19 LTCCP.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

11. There are no direct legal considerations relating to the recommendations in this report.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

12. 2009-19 LTCCP – Volume 1 (Community Outcomes, pages 52 – 54)

Community Outcomes:

- (a) Security – creating safe access for pedestrians and cyclists;
- (b) Community – a city of inclusive and diverse communities;
- (c) Governance – active participation in public decision-making;
- (d) Healthy – an opportunity for people to live healthy lifestyles;
- (e) Recreation – allowing people to participate in leisure activities;
- (f) Development – an attractive and well-designed city to meet current needs and future challenges.

13. Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

14. Yes, as per above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

15. The project aligns with the Council's Walking and Cycling Strategies.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

16. Yes, as per above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

Consultation Process & Outcome

17. In July 2009 a publicity pamphlet was distributed to approximately 524 properties in Little River and to a number of other interest groups and key stakeholders. This pamphlet included a summary of the concept, initial concept plans and a feedback form providing an opportunity for the community to indicate whether they supported the proposal along with any additional comments or feedback.
18. An information session was also held at the Little River Community Hall on 22 July 2009.
19. Once the consultation period had closed, each submitter received an interim reply letter, which acknowledged that their submission had been received and that their suggestions would be considered.
20. The consultation received a 16 per cent response rate (82 responses) and community feedback was generally in support of 'Option 1' from the two plans that were consulted on. (Please refer to the full schedule of community feedback and project team responses circulated separately to Board members.)
- (a) 47 submitters (57%) responded "I support Option 1 of the concept plan".
 - (b) 14 submitters (17%) responded "I support Option 2 of the concept plan".
 - (c) 10 submitters (12%) responded that they did not prefer either Option 1 or Option 2.
 - (d) 8 submitters (9.8%) responded "I have mixed views and have some concerns that would like to be considered".
 - (e) 4 submitters (4.9%) did not indicate a preference.

21. During consultation the project team was made aware that not all the owners of the private properties that it was proposed the trail would traverse (for a public access link under Option 1), had been approached regarding the proposal. Since then staff have had conversations with some of the land owners involved. Some are not agreeable to the trail crossing their properties, and do not want to enter into further negotiations.
22. A number of submitters indicated that they would prefer to see the trail align with the temporary trail currently being used by pedestrians and cyclists, i.e. a pathway to follow the eastern side of SH75, cross over at Wairewa Pa Road and continue tracking along road reserve, parallel to SH75 with a crossing point near the veterinary services and then continuing along the western side of SH75 to the historic railway station in the township.
23. On 7 October 2009 the project team had a seminar with the Akaroa/Wairewa Board outlining the feedback received from consultation and the preferred option.
24. The key stakeholder groups i.e. the Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail Trust, Wairewa Runanga, New Zealand Transport Agency, Railway Station Trust and Historic Places Trust have all been informed of the preferred option and details of when the report would be submitted to the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board.
25. In November 2009 all respondents were sent a final letter advising them of the overall outcome of the consultation and the preferred option, a copy of the comments received from this consultation process together with staff comments and an indicative plan of the route for the Little River Rail Trail. Details of the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board meeting (date, time and venue) were provided to enable key stakeholders and residents to make a deputation to the Board if they wished to do so, prior to a decision being made.
26. The final indicative plan is included as Option 3 on **attachment 1** and is recommended for approval by the Community Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board:

- (a) Recommend to the Council that Option 3 (**Attachment 1**) be adopted for the final stage of the Little River Rail Trail – Development Plan..
- (b) That this project be submitted for consideration in future LTCCP years to provide the necessary funding to implement the proposed plan.