

## 19. CYCLIST NUMBERS

RR 9399

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Corporate Plan Output: 9.5.text.57	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of recent information concerning cycle numbers.

### COUNT PROGRAMMES

During 1998 approximately 400 intersection counts were done, including a full perimeter count, at signalised intersections, around the four avenues. Using this count information, counts done in 1997, and the 1991 screen line survey counts, the following information is available (note last paragraph however):

- Approximately 1800 cyclists per day enter the Central Business District (area bounded by four avenues and Hagley Park) during the hours of 7.30 – 9.00 am.
- The number of cyclists shows little variation over the city between counts in 1997 and 1998.
- Cycle numbers entering the four avenues have dropped approximately 20% since the 1991 screen line survey.

### SCHOOL COUNTS

In October 1998, all Intermediate and High Schools (but no mixed level schools i.e. primary/intermediate) in the city were asked to count the number of bikes in their stands, and record the number of people at school that day. Twenty-five out of 35 schools responded. The survey showed that approximately 22% of school children were cycling. This shows a drop from 40% by comparison with the figures in the 1996 Cycle Strategy (note last paragraph).

### ROBUSTNESS OF FIGURES USED

Comparison of the figures from 1998 and those from either 1991 screen line or 1996 strategy tend to show fairly marked drops in current cycling. Although these figures are supported in general trend by the 1991 and 1996 censuses (which show a 10% drop in commuter cycling 1991-96), caution should be used when comparing the screen line and earlier school counts. The techniques used in 1991 and 1996 were quite different to those used in 1998 so the direct comparisons made above are not strictly rigorous – it

would be more valid to acknowledge a downward trend to 1997/98 rather than worry about the specific values.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.