

8. CYCLE CONFERENCE 2000

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Corporate Plan Output: Pages 9.5.37 & 38	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of a national cycle conference.

CYCLE CONFERENCE

Based on a number of discussions between members of the Cycle Advocates Network, Christchurch and Hamilton City Councils, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, a national cycle conference will be held in Palmerston North on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th July 2000.

The conference was initially mooted as a national gathering for members of the Cycle Advocates Network. However, given the glaring need for greater communication amongst local authorities and national bodies on cycle issues, the scope of the conference was expanded to be appropriate to all levels of national, local and individual cycle work and advocacy.

The conference is programmed over a Friday and Saturday so that those who wish to attend will only miss one day of work. It is to be held in Palmerston North as it is considered that a greater number of advocates will be able to attend a North Island venue.

THEMES AND SPEAKERS

The general theme of the conference will be “Making Cycling Viable”, and will focus on policies, plans, implementation and promotion/education methods and practices that have worked, on a local, national and international level.

Proposed speakers are two well renowned cycle and health practitioners from UK (by video conference link), the current Minister of Transport, the manager of the South Australian state bicycling authority and the person developing the NZ National Cycle Strategy base document. There will of course be other speakers from New Zealand, including, no doubt, the Council’s cycle planning staff.

POSSIBLE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

At this stage the conference is in its early planning stages. The calls for papers and attendees will come later. However, in the interests of longer term planning, it is recommended that the Committee consider now whether to send a representative or two.

A common problem with cycle conferences is that they “preach to the converted”. As the conference will be focusing on practical measures and success stories, it might be appropriate for both an enthusiastic cycling supporter, and a less enthusiastic, perhaps cycling critic, to attend.

The City Streets Unit will be represented at the conference.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This conference in Palmerston North is the second cycling conference to be held in New Zealand (1997 and 2000). It is probably an appropriate time to start thinking about holding one in Christchurch, particularly to show-case our infrastructure and other programmes we have operating.

While the details will need to be worked out closer to any chosen date, the Committee is asked to consider whether it would support initial investigations into holding a Cycle Conference in Christchurch in the latter half of 2002.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information about the national cycle conference be received.
 2. That the Committee consider whether one or more Councillors should attend the conference.
 3. That the Committee consider whether investigations should commence into holding a national cycling conference in Christchurch in 2002.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That Chrissie Williams be the elected member representative at the Cycle Conference in Palmerston North in July 2000.
 2. That it be proposed that a national cycle conference be held in 2002 and that it be held in Christchurch.