

13. **COAST TO COAST CYCLE ROUTE  
COMMUNITY BOARD REPRESENTATION ON PROJECT TEAM**

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The purpose of this report is to promote the idea of a Coast to Coast cycle route and ask if the Community Board wishes to be represented on the Council's project team.

The following letter has been received from Alix Newman (Transport Planning: Cycling):

The Christchurch City Council has a longstanding interest in increasing the numbers of people cycling in the city, and improving the safety of those who do so. The Council recognises that there are tremendous individual and social benefits to be gained from increased cycling and is making significant efforts to achieve these within the city.

The benefits obtainable for city cyclists range from the obvious issues such as potential reductions in city traffic growth, to the less obvious but nonetheless real economic advantages to organisations whose employees are more healthy and less stressed.

Cycle routes that go beyond city boundaries and link smaller towns and settlements also bring distinct advantages. The potential for cycle (and walking) tourism is increased, and small towns have been known to experience economic revival when cycle touring routes pass through them.

The Christchurch City Council is interested in seeing the benefits of cycling and cycle tourism spread beyond Christchurch. For that reason, the Council is interested in taking the lead in the development of a Coast-to-Coast cycle route. It is anticipated that the route will allow cycle tourist (and walker) travel between the east and west coasts of the South Island, away from existing state highways.

The concept for a Coast to Coast cycle route has been circulating amongst cycle advocates and cycle tourists for a number of years. The Council has recently become interested in developing the concept further after observing the range of tremendous benefits that the UK's 5000km cycle network has brought to local communities. Hopefully the Coast to Coast cycle route would be one of the initial elements of a national cycle network.

The Coast to Coast cycle route project is still in concept form - the route has not been determined nor funding nor planning approvals gained. It will obviously need strong leadership and active support from a number of agencies and individuals to work through the process to turn the concept into a reality.

The Christchurch City Council would like to take the initial step of inviting all those who have an interest in this project, or whose organisations may be involved or possibly affected by the Coast to Coast project, to an initial meeting. This meeting will layout the broad concept for the project and determine whether there is enough goodwill and support to carry the project further.

Your organisation has been identified as one that could potentially be impacted or may wish to be involved further in this project, hence you and/or your staff are cordially invited to attend the meeting and hear about the project concept.

The meeting is to be held in the Ballroom of the Centra Hotel, Cashel Street, Christchurch, at 7pm on the evening of Monday 19 February 2001. It will be hosted by Councillor Denis O'Rourke, chair of the City Services Committee of the Christchurch City Council. A supper, including tea and coffee will be served.

Your attendance at this initial meeting of the Coast to Coast cycle route would be greatly appreciated.

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider having a representative on the project team.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the Board consider having a representative on the project team.