

14. CYCLE STRATEGY PROPOSED UPDATE PROCESS

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The purpose of this report is to gain support from the Committee for the process being proposed to update the existing Council Cycling Strategy. This is a programmed periodical update, the current strategy is now four years old and is due to be revised and updated.

BACKGROUND

The current Council Cycle Strategy was adopted by the Council at the start of the year 2000. It has proved to be an effective document with each annual report monitoring the years outcomes being received positively by the Council. However, over the last three to four years, in addition to the usual incremental changes expected, a number of exceptional changes have taken place. The 2002 New Zealand Transport Strategy has given explicit support for sustainable transport and cascading from this initiatives at national, regional and local level have been developing. This recent extra support towards sustainable transport generally has paralleled cycling gaining more - funding, recognition through strategies, legal recognition through changes in the road user rules and development of national design and planning guidelines.

The need for a periodical update was recognised by the Council when it adopted the last updated strategy in 2000. It also then adopted a recommendation that such a future update be undertaken. It is particularly timely that the current strategy is updated to take account of the current changes in the cycling environment throughout New Zealand.

REVISION PROCESS

The preparatory stage for the update is underway and a sample of stakeholders have been identified and interviewed to gain their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the existing strategy towards suggestions for the updated version. This sampling included interviews with members from all six Community Boards and the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee. The information has been presented to a working party of the Cycle Steering Committee to gain further direction towards drafting an updated cycle strategy. The draft cycle strategy text is expected to be ready to be presented to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee at its March 2004 meeting. At which time officers will be requesting that the Committee approve it for release to the public for consultation.

The updated strategy will be consistent with the direction that the Council is currently progressing and will take impetus from such documents as the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy, the Asset Management Plan and associated current transport strategies.

A project calendar has been developed for both the preparation of the strategy document and its promotion. This has been prepared with the aim of having the final document adopted by Council and available to the public well before the Local Government Elections in October 2004. The following milestone dates are consistent with this timeframe for completion.

TIMEFRAME

Key Dates 2004	Milestones
23 February 2004	Cycle Steering Committee Working Party - sign off a draft strategy text.
9 March 2004	Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee - draft strategy recommended for sign-off for release to public consultation.
25 March 2004	Council sign-off of draft strategy for public consultation.
25 March 2004 - 30 April 2004	Draft strategy is released for public consultation - (6 weeks).
30 April 2004 - 22 June 2004	Gathering feedback, analysis and development of draft strategy in conjunction with the Cycle Steering Committee Working Party.

22 June 2004	Cycle Steering Committee recommendation for sign-off for revised strategy.
24 June	Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee Seminar – revised strategy
13 July 2004	Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee recommendation for adoption to Council of the revised strategy.
Key Dates 2004	Milestones
29 July 2004	Council adoption of the revised strategy.
23 August 2004	Strategy printed and available to the public. Promotion and distribution activated.

CONCLUSION

The timetable programme runs over seven months which makes it a relatively compact timetable. It is important that we keep to the timetable as any delays may run it into the recess period around the Council elections which would delay the whole programme into 2005. Hence early directional ideas for the update of the strategy have already been gained from a broad range of stakeholders and directional guidance is being maintained through close development work with the Cycle Steering Committee and its working party.

Members further input into the draft updated strategy will be sought at the Committee's March 2004 meeting where the strategies content will be presented.

Staff

Recommendation: That the process timetable and key milestones for updating the Council's Cycle Strategy, as detailed in this report, be adopted.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That the above recommendation be adopted.
2. That a seminar be held for the Committee on Thursday 24 June 2004 to consider the draft strategy.