

## **Press Statement**

### **Cycling Safety Cut**

The North Shore City Council's proposal to cut the cycling budget for the next 15 years from \$15m to \$2.7m makes a mockery of the transport goals stated in the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan, currently open for public comment. These goals aim for a transport system that is safe and affordable, offers choice, and increases the numbers of residents walking, cycling and using public transport.

Cycle Action Co-Chair Barbara Cuthbert says "The cuts are a huge set back for transport choice and safety on the Shore. The \$2.7m in the budget only covers projects that are already underway. These cuts mean we lose the chance to provide 60 km of new cycleways in areas known to be high risk for cycling accidents. These cycleways include off road paths, allowing residents to bike safely to the local shop or library, or students to bike to school. Why should these people have to wait 15 years for safe cycling routes?"

"We need to remember that only half of this money is from ratepayers. The other \$7m is Transport Agency subsidy, so we are losing the opportunity to use this money to improve safety and reduce car dependence on the Shore."

"The cuts are particularly savage when you consider that no other transport mode has been attacked in this way. They are totally out of synch with the Council's new cycling strategy, which tells us that the existing bike lanes have increased cycling by up to 50%. We are also seeing more cyclists riding to bus stations and ferries. All of this points to the fact that cycling improvements are a good investment to reduce congestion, get more efficient use of our roads and healthier transport choices. I urge all cyclists, their friends and families to go on-line and write a submission to the Council's Plan to reinstate the full cycleway budget."

Barbara Cuthbert  
Co-Chair, Cycle Action Auckland  
Ph 445-2223 / Email [cuthash@worldnet.co.nz](mailto:cuthash@worldnet.co.nz)