

eNews : Cycle Action – the Voice for Auckland Cyclists

March – National Cycleway and more!

We were riding a high in March, with all the buzz created by publicity and ideas for the National Cycleway.

The action was mostly centred on Wellington, where national cycling groups were included in early scoping discussions with the Ministry of Tourism on how the path could be achieved and possible routes.

That didn't stop our Auckland media from adding to the excitement, with feature items and letters galore. What a time to be a cyclist!

Investigations for the cycleway are progressing fast with a stocktake of all existing or planned regionally significant recreational / tourist / scenic cycle routes (off and on road, including mountain bike tracks) throughout the country. John Wilmer of BikeNZ is collating this information.

Bikewise Month

Bikewise month was a terrific success with record attendances at the breakfasts in Auckland City, North Shore City, and good turn out in Manukau and Waiheke Island.

The breakfast is still bringing out new cyclists; 64% of those at the North Shore event were new cyclists. They are also deeply into cycling; 66% are cycling more than 3 times a week. Interesting that 64% were aged over 40.

Other events were also well attended – company, courier and mayoral challenges soaked up loads of energy and delivered drama to the streets. Waiheke closed off a road for the day for cyclists, walkers, horses and rickshaws!

New and quirky groups got out on their bikes – Frocks on bikes added style and panache. Is it time for those fixed gear bikes to give us a whirl?

Cycle Action is keen to see new initiatives and is involved early planning for next year. Please get in touch now with any comment or ideas.

Regional Cycling Counts

Clip boards were on the streets at peak morning and evening hours last week, counting cyclists passing 77 arterial road locations throughout the region. The results are being tallied now, and will be available at the beginning of May.

We need a more reliable and faster system than this one day clip board gang, (despite its being a great revenue earner for all involved).

ARTA is investigating mechanical counting strips on the road and cycletracks. Auckland City is trialling one of these on Tamaki Drive – look out for it on the harbourside near the Parnell Baths. This shows that counts can vary by up to 400%, depending on weather and days of the week !

North Shore Cycle Strategy

This new cycling strategy is worth noting, as it comes out of the battleground of the cycle lane installed between Takapuna and Devonport. Good to think that the route is now well used and winning cyclists over to utility cycling.

The Strategy sets the scene for improving cycling on the Shore for years to come. Paperwork isn't sexy, so it's impressive that at least 100 submissions were sent on line to the Council over 4 weeks.

Thanks, and good on you!

Cycle Action's response is on line at

<http://can.org.nz/book/caa-submissions/north-shore-city-council/submission-on-the-nsc-draft-cycle-strategy-2009-march>

Bikes on Buses

Christchurch has just finished a mini trial with bikes racks fitted to buses travelling through the Lyttleton Tunnel. It has been such a success that 75 buses are about to be fitted with racks to see how bigger buses cope and on a wider range of streets.

Why should that city be so lucky! The reason is that it has been exempted from the regulations controlling passenger buses.

ARTA knows that we are hungry for the service in Auckland and is already gearing up to investigate how it could apply here. A law change is planned 'mid next year to remove the rule blockage.

The harbour bridge bus services are obvious candidates for the racks, but there will be others as well. Keep in touch with your local ARC elected rep if you want to add your voice to the clamour.

Getting a fair deal for Cycling

Mean and lean days are before us, as Councils slash and burn to keep rates low.

Cycling and walking budgets have taken a thrashing – North Shore City and Auckland City are planning to totally wipe all cycling money for at least the next 10 years! Waitakere and Manukau are also on a savings binge.

Cycle Action is not in dream land, but knows that it is short sighted to sacrifice the safety of cyclists or ignore public demands to make some provision to improve cycling facilities.

Councils will be reminded that 20% of their residents are likely to own bikes, that they are good for business, health and the environment - they are loved by tourists and are being used to access local shops, ferries and trains.

Our next monthly meeting is a workshop to get submissions together to give this message to the Council's LTCCP's (public budget planning documents).

Come along to get ideas on how to win over your Council, or to pass on a message that could make the difference.

March Meeting

Venue – CAA office, The Long Room, Freemans Bay Community Centre, Hepburn St, Freemans Bay.

7 – 8.30 pm, Wednesday, 25th March.

To comment or get more info

Please contact Barb Insull or Barb Cuthbert,

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