



Hamilton Biking Draft Plan Cycle Action Waikato Response

Cycle Action Waikato (CAW) supports the intention of the Hamilton Biking Plan. We see this as a positive step towards making cycling a safe, viable, and enjoyable experience for all Hamiltonians. We appreciate the work put into this plan by the working group. CAW are greatly encouraged that you are choosing to support the future of cycling in Hamilton.

Our specific feedback is as follows:

Outcomes

CAW approve of this list as an appropriate and useful set of outcomes.

Goals

We suggest that “Cycling in Hamilton is as safe as driving a car” be added as a goal. This is a measurable, aspirational, and achievable goal. Overseas research in Portland, Oregon revealed that before significant infrastructure was put in place, 60% of the population were interested in cycling but not doing so because of safety fears.

It is important to include schools in these goals. Suggested edit: “A fully connected, on and off-road, biking network linking the **schools**, city and suburbs.”

Actions

Points from the draft plan addressed as follows:

Point 1

We invite HCC to work with key stakeholders, including CAW, when designing new cycling infrastructure. Our members are road testing (and analyzing) routes throughout the city daily. These members and our networks hold a wealth of information about what is working well, where weak points are, and what great solutions could be developed. We would love to share that information with HCC.

Suggested addition to Point 1: “The design of all new urban roads and new suburban arterial routes to include safe, protected cycle lanes.” It is far cheaper and less disruptive to put in high quality cycling infrastructure in the first instance rather than retro-fitting later on.

Point 2

Instead of developing standards and technical specifications, we suggest the focus should be about building a library of benchmarking reports, standards and technical specifications and adapting to suit NZ law. Because these standards

already exist, and have been well tested and developed, we wouldn't like to see these created from scratch.

Point 5

We suggest that "Maintenance of" be changed to "Continuous improvements to" as follows: "**Continuous improvements to** the biking networks is built into transport and city planning ensuring that routes are consistently easy to ride and available to users within minimal disruptions to service." Maintenance often means maintaining existing standard, whereas we believe that continuous improvements will be needed for a long time. Even Holland, known as world leaders in cycling infrastructure, are working to continuous improvements.

Point 8

We would like Cycle Action Waikato to be included in this list of stakeholders.

Additional comments on Actions

Generally, target audience consideration needs to be made clear with the actions so that needs can be met effectively and resources can be used strategically. A 'one size fits all' approach risks being not ideal for anybody. We suggest referring to the break-down of cyclist types from the CAW 30 year plan submission:

1. Sports cyclists out there to get fit
2. The recreational cyclists (reasonably well catered for in Hamilton)
3. Commuter or 'utility' cyclists (those using bicycles primarily for transport, including commuting to work, school, shops and for other trips).

A further breakdown of attitudes within commuters and potential commuters can be defined as follows:

1. Strong and fearless - a tiny group;
2. Enthusiastic and confident - a small group;
3. Interested but concerned 60 %;
4. The "no way, no how!" 30 % group that will never get on a cycle.

Our preference is for the target audience of commuter cyclists who are interested but concerns to be priority for actions, as this is where you will find the largest population of people and the most potential gains across the board (health, safety, financial, congestion easing, social).

Thanks again for undertaking this plan, and for involving CAW in the process. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this work. Please feel free to contact us about any aspects of this feedback or in regards to any future developments.

Best regards,

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