

# 14 KEY CYCLING ISSUES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES



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## *What Do Cyclists Want?*

*This guide has been developed by CAN (Cycling Advocates Network of NZ) to help local and regional authorities to plan for cycling. Cycling can make an important contribution to objectives for congestion and pollution reduction and improvements in health and access.*

### **Planning & Infrastructure**

#### **1. Plan for cycling**

Apply a broad spectrum approach to cycle planning and provision in line with current good practice:

- a. positive physical environment: neighbourhood or city-wide traffic calming, with use of best practice cycle infrastructure and facilities (including direct route networks, assistance at main junctions and crossing points) that meet cyclists' needs
- b. creation of a cycling culture
- c. reduction of danger at source
- d. clear strategic role for cycling within your transport policy
- e. integration of cycling (and transport in general) with land use planning

#### **2. Develop a cycling strategy**

Develop a cycling strategy or cycle action plan in consultation with user groups that sets realistic targets (e.g. for crash reduction, cycle usage, route construction) and is adequately resourced.

#### **3. Appoint a cycle officer**

Appoint a cycle officer and provide her or him with necessary support and resources. Consult her/him on general roading projects, not just 'cycling' projects. Many cycling problems caused by new projects are simply because no-one with a cycling perspective was consulted about the impacts on cyclists.

#### **4. Collect data**

Collect hard data on cyclists, including cyclist counts, collision records, hospitalisation data, surveys on route selection or difficulties etc, and then develop plans from them. Monitor also where cyclists are not going and work out why. Bear in mind that different types of cyclists and cycle journeys (each with differing needs) exist in your community. These include: commuters, shoppers, recreational cyclists, cycle tourists, school children and people cycling to tertiary institutions.

### **Promotion, Education & Encouragement**

#### **5. Communicate**

Develop good lines of communication with cyclists and other groups:

- a. support local cycle groups and seek their advice
- b. liaise with groups such as pedestrians, motorists, retailers and residents over major cycle projects that affect them
- c. arrange regular meetings with cycling representatives
- d. establish systems for reporting hazards (e.g. telephone hotline, freepost hazard reporting card, e-mail address/website).

#### **6. Train**

Provide in-service training on providing for cyclists for **all** planning and engineering staff. Training could be provided by an expert from within your authority or from another authority. No design

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manual can cover every situation, so it is helpful to observe and understand how cyclists behave. Draw on the knowledge and experience from within the cycling community in your area - contact your local cycling groups. Check the CAN contacts list below (updated on our website) for local advocacy groups. Sporting and recreational groups should also be involved.

## 7. Promote cycling

- a. dispel myths about topography, weather etc.
- b. use cyclists in council promotional events and literature
- c. publicise cycle provision such as route networks and cycle parking
- d. recreation officer to develop and promote cycling activities (e.g. rides, displays) in association with cycling clubs
- e. offer Cycle Friendly Employer Awards for employers that provide their staff with secure cycle parking, showers, lockers, cycle allowances for work trips etc. Lead by example and ensure your own staff have these things too! Contact CAN for cycle friendly employer resources.

## 8. Form a policy on school trips

Form a policy on school trips in association with schools, Police, parents' groups and other organisations. Adopt the "Safe Routes to Schools" programme (contact Kidsafe, 09 820 1190). Use NZ Road Safety Programme money, police hours and the LTSA to put the "Street Sense" kit into schools and train teachers in its use. Encourage schools to take advantage of other safety/skills programmes such as Kiwi Cycling (Cycling NZ/BikeWise) or Out & About/Riding By (Police).

## 9. Lobby

Lobby key institutions on cycling issues that affect you and cyclists in your community:

- a. urban speed limits (LTSA)
- b. full recognition of the role of cycling in an NZ Transport Strategy (MoT)
- c. need for an NZ cycling strategy (MoT)
- d. need for NZ national cycle facilities standards (MoT & LTSA)
- e. broader criteria for funding decisions to include health benefits and full consideration of environmental issues (Transfund)
- f. census questions (Statistics NZ)

## Enforcement, Regulation & Safety

### 10. Require cycle planning and design in all new developments.

This is easier, cheaper and often more effective than retrofitting. Ensure road lanes are either too narrow for overtaking or wide enough to allow it to occur safely. Include cycling in traffic modelling.

### 11. Review parking policies

Reviewing parking policies to ensure good practice is followed will help cyclists by:

- a. enforcement of parking restrictions on cycle lanes and routes
- b. a reduction in illegal and double parking
- c. appropriate location and type of car parking (e.g. angle parking is much more problematic for cyclists than parallel; if angle parking must be used, reduce its angle)
- d. adequate cycle parking (conveniently located, well designed, secure etc.)

## Funding & Resources

### 12. Use funding

Make maximum use of all sources of funding (e.g. rates, Road Safety Trust, NZ Road Safety Programme, Transfund NZ) and encourage cycle groups to do the same.

### 13. Buy cycling texts

Use some of your publications budget to buy cycling texts. Circulate them among staff. (See attached list of suggestions.) Encourage your Regional Council to establish a central library of reference materials. The Information Centre at the LTSA (04-494 8600) has a sizeable collection of cycling texts which local authorities can borrow. These are listed on the NZ Bibliographic Network - access it through your local library

### 14. Develop links

Develop links with other local authorities and other organisations (eg. ACC, LTSA, cycle industry, Police, health providers, Transit NZ) in your region to share ideas and resources, and to co-ordinate programmes, routes and campaigns. Perhaps establish a formal body (e.g. Wellington Regional Cycle Forum, Auckland Regional Cycling Group) to do this.



## Cycling Publications

1. **Austrroads: Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 14 - Bicycles**; Austrroads, Sydney, Australia, 1999, 153pp. Comments: generally good, though requires some adaptation to fit NZ Road Code. Available from Austrroads, PO Box K659, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia, fax 02-264 1657
2. British Medical Association: **Cycling: Towards Health & Safety**; British Medical Association, 1992 Comments: discusses health benefits of cycling, risks to cyclists etc. Paperback available from Techbooks, Pvt e Bag 99939, Auckland tel. 0800 525 200.
3. Centre for Research & Contract Standardization in Civil & Traffic Engineering: **Sign Up for the Bike - Design Manual for Cycle Friendly Infrastructure**; The Netherlands, 1993, 325pp Comments: known as the CROW manual. Exceptionally comprehensive. Available from C.R.O.W., PO Box 37, NL-6710 BA EDE, The Netherlands. Also can be borrowed from LTSA Information Centre (tel. 04-494 8600).
4. Christchurch City Council; **Cycle Network Planning Process**, NZ, 1999, Comments: for a copy contact: cycling@ccc.govt.nz.
5. Department of Transport: **The National Cycling Strategy**; Department of Transport, London, UK, 1996, 44pp. (also: appendix of topic papers etc, 199pp) Comments: available from Driver Information & Traffic Management Division, Department of Transport, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham St, London SW1P 4DR, England, fax 0171-271 5168
6. Earth Resources Research: **Costing the Benefits: the Value of Cycling**; Cyclists' Touring Club, Godalming, UK, 1993 Comments: available from CTC, 69 Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3HS, UK
7. Federal Highways Administration: **The National Bicycling and Walking Study**; US Department of Transportation, Washington, DC, USA, 1994, 132pp. (also: **Bicycling & Walking in the Nineties & Beyond**, 24pp.; **FHWA Study Tour for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety in England, Germany & the Netherlands**, 101pp.) Comments: available from Office of Highway Safety, Federal Highway Administration, Room 3416, 400 Seventh St, S.W., Washington, DC, 20590, USA, fax 202-366 2249
8. Hudson, Mike: **Bicycle Planning Book**; Comments: available from Victoria University of Wellington Architecture School Library.
9. Hudson, Mike: **Bicycle Planning Policy & Practice**; Comments: available from Wellington City Council Central Library.
10. Institution of Highways & Transportation: **Guidelines for Cycle Audit and Cycle Review**, UK, 1999, 100pp; Comments: provides a comprehensive method of auditing existing & new road projects for their cycle-friendliness
11. Institute of Highways & Transportation, Cyclists' Touring Club et al: **Guidance for Cycle-Friendly Infrastructure**; UK, 1995 Comments: available from CTC, 69 Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey, U7 3HS, UK (price = £15)
12. McClintock, H. (ed.): **The Bicycle and City Traffic**; Belhaven Press, London, UK, 1992 Comments: contains detailed analysis of safety issues, incl. risk compensation, balance betw. education & engineering. Available Massey University Library on Interloan.
13. Mathew, Don: **More Bikes - Policy into Best Practice**; Cyclists' Touring Club, Godalming, UK, 1995, 60pp. Comments: inspirational stuff. Contains case studies, many other refs. Available from CTC, 69 Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3HS, K (price = £10)
14. Sustrans: **The National Cycle Network - Guidelines and Practical Details - Issue 2**; Sustrans, Bristol, UK, 1997, 181pp. Comments: excellent diagrams & technical info. Many situations applicable to NZ conditions. Available from Sustrans, 35 King St, Bristol BS1 4DZ, UK (price = ca.£30)

### Reference list compiled by:

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CAN has an extensive library of books, reports, articles, videos etc. (including some of those listed above) many of which may be borrowed. For a list of material held by CAN and others, see the CAN website or contact CAN.

# Cycling Advocates' Network of NZ

## Contact List

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### Member Groups

#### Auckland Cycle Touring Association (Inc.)

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Contact: John Gregory  
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#### Bicycle Nelson Bays

PO Box 685, Nelson  
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#### Cycle Action Auckland

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#### Cycle Aware Wellington

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#### Spokes Dunedin

P O Box 6321, Dunedin  
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Tel: 03-479 8048, kypros.  
kypri@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

#### Otaki Cycling Environment & Access Network (OCEAN)

PO Box 53, Otaki  
Contact: Liz Mikkelsen  
Tel: 06- 364 8187  
ourworld@actrix.gen.nz

#### Spokes/Canterbury Cyclists Association

c/- PO Box 4536, Christchurch  
Contact: Richard Hayman  
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