

## Cycling Research

### MADE IN NEW ZEALAND

Much of the time, these *ChainLinks* research articles are reporting on cycling research from around the world. But it's not always appropriate to take overseas research and apply it directly here. Our legislative, social, and roading environments are often quite different for starters, and it's fair to say that we don't necessarily have the same "cycling culture" that many other places do. So what research is carried out here in New Zealand?

Transfund NZ has an annual research programme that covers a wide variety of land transport topics. Gradually the programme is starting to address more issues of interest to cyclists (and of sustainable transport in general). Here are some relevant Transfund projects recently awarded or undertaken in the past year or so:

- "NZ Walking/Cycling Strategies - Best Practice" (MWH NZ Ltd & others) – contact Andrew Macbeth (MWH, Christchurch) for more information, <[andrew.g.macbeth@mwhglobal.com](mailto:andrew.g.macbeth@mwhglobal.com)>.
- "Improved Multi-lane roundabout designs for cyclists" (City Design) – contact Duncan Campbell (City Design, Auckland) for more information, <[duncan.campbell@citydesign.co.nz](mailto:duncan.campbell@citydesign.co.nz)>.
- "Benefits from provision for interface between cycling and public transport" (Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd) – contact Tim Booth (BCHF, Auckland) for more information <[tbooth@beca.co.nz](mailto:tbooth@beca.co.nz)>.
- "Targeting cycling and walking" (Capital Research, Wellington) – contact Dr Charles Sullivan for more information, <[Sullivan@capitalresearch.co.nz](mailto:Sullivan@capitalresearch.co.nz)>. (*Sounds dangerous: I thought we already were targeted by motorists...*)
- "Predicting Accident Rates for Cyclists & Pedestrians" (Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd). Contact Dr Shane Turner (BCHF, Christchurch) for more information, <[sturner@beca.co.nz](mailto:sturner@beca.co.nz)>.
- "School Journey Safety: A Comparative Study of Engineering Devices" (TERNZ Ltd). Contact Dr Peter Baas (TERNZ, Manukau) for more information, <[p.baas@ternz.co.nz](mailto:p.baas@ternz.co.nz)>.
- "Understanding Short Trips and Potential for Energy Efficient Modes" (Pinnacle Research, Wellington). Contact Dr Carolyn O'Fallon for more information, <[pinnacle.research@clear.net.nz](mailto:pinnacle.research@clear.net.nz)>.
- "Balancing the Needs of Cyclists and Motorists" (Opus Central Laboratories). Contact Dr Darren Walton (Opus, Lower Hutt) for more information, <[darren.walton@opus.co.nz](mailto:darren.walton@opus.co.nz)>.

It's not just Transfund who undertake research in this area. The LTSA are increasingly looking into local cycling research, as part of their pedestrian and cycling safety framework. One interesting project they are currently undertaking with MWH is looking at perceptions of different cycling facilities. A pilot "Cycle for Science" ride saw about 60 cyclists of all experiences survey facilities along roads and at intersections. Contact Tim Hughes (LTSA, Christchurch) for more information, <[Tim.Hughes@ltsa.govt.nz](mailto:Tim.Hughes@ltsa.govt.nz)>.

Other relevant work is sponsored by agencies such as the Foundation for Research Science & Technology (FRST), the Road Safety Trust, and ACC. A number of studies are also carried out as university research projects by students. And in some cases, local councils (such as Christchurch City) undertake their own research, particularly of operational & design issues.

CAN welcomes local cycling research (where overseas research is not directly applicable) and is happy to discuss with researchers possible areas of investigation. Where appropriate we can provide "end user" support for research proposals.

### References

- To find information on current NZ cycling-related research, go to: <http://www.can.org.nz/research/>
- Information about the recent "Cycle for Science" pilot in Christchurch is available: <http://beam.to/cyc4sci>
- Details of Transfund NZ's research programme can be found at: <http://www.transfund.govt.nz/research.html>

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