



Newtown Residents' Association

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Island Bay Cycle Lanes Submission

Introduction

The Newtown Residents' Association is the Incorporated Society representing the suburbs of Newtown, Berhampore, Mt Cook and parts of Melrose. We are an active local group of residents and businesspeople, concerned with maintaining and improving our suburb's liveability, connectedness and sustainability. For 100 years our organisation has worked actively to make our community a thriving, diverse, great place to live. We care passionately about the design, function and ecology of our urban and natural environment. The Association has a long history of advocating for the provision of a Safe Cycleway Network within the southern suburbs and of pro-actively working on Safe Cycleway Designs.

The Newtown Residents' Association applauds the WCC councillors and its officers for finally getting this project rolling.

Submission

The Newtown Residents' Association strongly supports the overall concept of the Island Bay to City Cycleway.

On behalf of the Newtown community, and on behalf of past citizens and future citizens of Wellington, the Newtown Residents' Association thanks you for beginning to consider in detail the safe cycling corridor linking Island Bay beach through the southern suburbs and the CBD to Wellington Waterfront. This is an important initiative that could transform how Wellington citizens live and move through this part of our city.

This is such an important initiative it needs to be done right, or not at all. The suggested current "Final Proposals and Revised Plans ":

- Do not provide the dual option of a safe continuous Cycleway corridor with protected side intersection configurations for our community's children and the less confident cyclists that Council Officers promised our Association's representative would be included in the final project when we raised this in May 2014.
- Are narrower than internationally recommended best practice width for fast moving cyclists to safely pass slow moving cyclists and remain clear of the blind spot of car door passengers.
- Approaching this key southern suburbs infrastructure piecemeal, in segments means the basic fundamental safety of a uniform configuration along the cycle journey corridor cannot be guaranteed. This segment should not be decided in isolation, with blinkers on. As adjoining neighbours we would like to make this trip by bike safely. The design layout for the adjoining Berhampore – Newtown – Mt Cook – Te Aro segments are currently undecided. The design layout for the still to be decided complicated segment must cope with steeper sloping terrain and narrower road widths, and might not end up being a match for the Segment 1 Island Bay Parade design where the legal road is wide and the journey nearly flat! , It is particularly unsafe to proceed with this Section 1 segment given that it bisects our school catchment zones and will affect everyday safety for school children. South Wellington Intermediate which caters for Island Bay is in Newtown.
- Do not cater safely for novices, less confident and cyclists concerned about safety – the young and the old
- Did not consider other design options that preserved more on street carparking

Conclusion

Our Association's cycleway team foresee it will be very difficult to re-visit the work and upgrade its safety once this is built. In this proposed lower safety configuration, as a design that does not cater for our community's children learning to ride nor for members of our community who don't currently cycle because it's not safe, we are not supportive of this major project proceeding.

The Newtown Residents' Association finds this particularly disappointing given we have spent 13 years advocating and lobbying for this project.

The Newtown Residents' Association would like to be heard in support of this succinct submission. Please do not hesitate to contact me at martin.hanley@vuw.ac.nz, or on 389 7316 if you would like our Association to provide more detail on this important Wellington issue.

Yours sincerely



Martin Hanley
Newtown Residents' Association