Christchurch: Creating a World-Class Cycling Network in a Transition City

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New Zealand

- 4.5 million people
  - Low population density
  - Very urbanised
- Typical Anglophone Development
  - Motor Vehicles
- ~1.4% of Trips by Bike
  - ~3% commuting
Meanwhile in Christchurch...
Christchurch Earthquakes Aftermath

- Major damage (est. $40 billion rebuild) (and 185 deaths)
  - 70% of city centre demolished/rebuilt
  - 15,000-20,000 residential properties rebuilt
  - Over 120,000 properties repaired or bought out
  - 45% of Christchurch’s roads rebuilt – 895 km

Opportunity?
"Share An Idea"

Make cycling much safer with dedicated bike paths separated from cars on most routes. Only experienced riders would continue to ride on the road. Graham, Port Hills

Bicycle highways – just for bikes - into the city. Make cycling in to work, or out to the beach on the weekend, safer, faster and fun. Tanya, Sumner

Separate the cycle ways from the cars so cyclists are safer, which would encourage cycling as a greener way of getting about. Elizabeth, Lower Hutt

Everything about our city can be geared to making it seen as the best city in the world for cycling (other great things follow) Gareth, Ivanhoe

Build widened cycling tracks to encourage more people to bike instead of drive. This will also persuade people to not cycle the footpath. Ruijia, Merivale

More walking or cycling-only areas in a compact area with good parking around it. Separate cycle ways where possible. Simon

Separate cycleways (like copenhagen) linking suburbs and city and making cycling pleasant! Hilary, Cashmere
Major Cycleway Routes
(NZ$162 million in 5-7 Years)
Economics: 8:1 Benefit/Cost
A Variety of Treatments...

Separated Cycleways

Neighbourhood Greenways

Shared Pathways

Roadway Crossings
Chch Cycle Design Guidelines
Getting Dutch Advice...
Other Initiatives

- Public Bike Share Scheme (from July ’15)
- Local Cycling Activities/Events
  - Ciclovia: CBD “Open Streets” (Sep 2013)
  - Rides: Lazy Sunday, Cycle Chch, Winter Solstice
  - Bike repair workshops: ICEcycles, RAD Bikes
  - Blogging: “Cycling in Christchurch”
- New NZ$25m Mountain-Bike Adventure Park
- University Research Opportunities
  - Cycle Facility Preferences, Routes vs Demand
  - Design Aspects (Path widths, Greenways)
  - Effect of Facilities on Cycling Growth
Ongoing Issues and Things to Consider

- Translating International Best-Practice
  - Consider different laws, road users, road widths
  - Detailed design of new concepts takes time!

- Maintain public and political enthusiasm
  - Ongoing promotions ahead of construction
  - Remind councillors of economics, public support
  - Pre-empt expected battles over parking, priority
  - “Quick win” projects
e.g. cycle lane separators
Thank You!

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