



MAPPED OUT: The planned new and enhanced cycleways around the city.

WHANGANUI-URBAN-CYCLEWAYS-M

Path upgrades should boost cycling

By Sam Kilmister

More money for cycle routes around the city should see more people biking to work and school, says an advocates group.

The Wanganui Bicycle Users' Group (WBUG) is excited by the council's successful application to central Government's Urban Cycleways Fund which will see many developments to cycle lanes around Wanganui.

WBUG spokesperson Lyneke Onderwater says the city will receive about \$3.3 million worth of cycling upgrades at an estimated cost of \$810,000 to the council.

Mrs Onderwater says several of the group's aims are being realised in this project, including

a clip-on cycle path on the city bridge, the widening and sealing of the river path towards Castlecliff and an off-road alternative path to Victoria Ave.

"We are very pleased that the council has the foresight to think of the next generation and create these opportunities for exercise that are easily incorporated into people's daily lives.

"It will be a great opportunity for students to start riding to school as well as for many other people to use the routes for commuting to work and get to wherever they need to be."

John Milnes, a member of WBUG, said while this is a positive result for all cyclists there will always be a need to develop cycle lanes elsewhere in

the city.

"If we could it would be good to develop lanes around the Springvale and Aramoho areas some time in the future."

However, Mr Milnes said the recently announced upgrades should be enough to encourage more people to pick up their bikes.

"A lot of complaints have been because of safety issues, but the sealing and widening of the tracks address that.

"The sealed roads also mean faster and cleaner travels for kids travelling to school, because these unsealed tracks kick up a lot of mud and water."

The Te Tuaiwi Shared Pathway will offer cyclists an off-road route which will provide links to

major schools such as Wanganui Intermediate, Wanganui Collegiate, City College and UCOL. It will also run along a section of the railway and connect to the path that goes up Great North Rd.

The City to North Mole

Shared Pathway will be sealed from the city bridge to the North Mole.

Transport Minister Simon Bridges says this project is an attempt to make cycling a safer and more attractive transport choice across the country.



HAPPY: Members of the Wanganui Bicycle Users' Group see a safer future.

PHOTO/STUART MUNRO 080715WCMSBIKEL