

What you like about this cycleway

We received a lot of feedback about improving cycle and pedestrian safety, reducing carbon emissions and the health benefits of the Wheels to Wings cycleway.

In making changes to the cycleway following consultation, we’re mindful of retaining the features that make it a pleasant ride. A safe cycle route is vital to achieve these benefits.

Below we summarise some of the benefits that we heard from the community.



Safe cycleway in the northwest of the city

The cycleways we’re building across Christchurch are designed to provide a network, so that people can find a safe route wherever they are going. In the areas where we’ve built cycleways so far there have been big increases in the number of people riding their bikes, but there is also a network affect that means that as these routes connect up numbers grow even more. When you look at the map below, the Wheels to Wings route provides a key connection for the northwest of the city.

We had a number of cyclists report that riding along Harewood



The number of cyclists entering the central city is increasing – **80% increase since 2016.**

Road feels unsafe and some reported that they had already had incidents. However, the cycleways are also about the peo–le who are not currently biking, people that are interested and would like to do something healthy for themselves and the planet, but are wary of giving it a go.

At present there isn’t a safe route for people to bike or scooter in this part of town and it’s difficult for pedestrians to cross many parts of Harewood Road. This cycleway is about providing safe travel choices no matter how you travel, now and for future generations.



Reducing carbon emissions

Cycleways are a big part of reducing Christchurch’s carbon emissions. Land-based transport emissions make up approximately 40 per cent of our total emissions. One-third of our car trips are under two kilometres so making walking, biking and scooting trips safer can make a big difference.

There are approximately 3,585,380 land-based traffic movements at the airport per year – this includes private vehicles, commercial vehicles, taxis, rental cars, buses, shuttles, and staff commutes. This equates to approximately 26,777 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

What you’ve said

“...this cycleway is not really for me - I ride my bike anyway. It is for families getting around their local neighbourhood, kids going to the park with their mates, older people riding to a local coffee shop, people on mobility scooters, bike-packing visitors who'll ride into the city from the plane, and even airport workers who'd consider leaving their car at home if the route felt safer and more pleasant.”

“At Christchurch Airport we have staff that currently cycle who would be grateful for the safety improvements that separated cycle connections would bring. Likewise, across our campus and airport customers, there will be more cyclists, and more members of the public who do not currently cycle because they consider it unsafe. A separated cycleway would allow potential cyclists a space where they could feel confident on the road, and a chance to further reduce land transport emissions.”



Safe route for kids to school

We received a lot of submissions from families who were pleased that this cycleway would provide a safe route to the six local schools. The Ministry of Education are supportive of making active transport safer for students. They support a pedestrian and cycle crossing, a 40 km/h speed zone by Harewood School, and additional traffic lights along the route.

Whether people are cycling, scooting, driving or walking, the cycleway will make it easier for everyone to access schools in the area.



What you’ve said

“...I go to Papanui high school. I am in year 9 I would like to bike to school but I can not because it is too dangerous and I would like to see it finished in 5 years if possible. I have a brother and sister who will be going to also if the cycleway is done. We would only need one car which will save money and co2. I would be part of us trying to stop climate change.”

“We have 2 kids (5 and 7) that we are actively encouraging to become confident cyclists, as we know that sustainable transport will be a necessity for them in 20 years' time. An attractive and walkable neighbourhood is important to us and we know there are huge benefits to reducing our reliance on cars and choosing to walk and cycle more.”

“I am a regularly user of Copenhagen Bakery (their carrot cake is divine), the new layout should actually make it safer for both motorists, pedestrians and cyclists (some decent bike stands would be good).”

The new signalised pedestrian crossings at the roundabout are much needed for safety reasons, as also at Wooldridge Rd corner and Matsons Ave.

