



Introduction

Nelson City Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency will be working together to roll out a number of projects to make it easier to walk and cycle in Nelson.

Background

Nelson has one of the highest rates of people who choose to walk or cycle as a way to get to work or school and also just for the fun of it.

There are lots of factors that influence that;

- Our climate
- Our relatively flat terrain
- Residents love of getting outdoors
- The work Nelson City Council has done so far to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Nelson City Council's investment in encouraging a walking and cycling culture through provision of facilities and safety education programmes has been recognised nationally with Council winning a string of national awards and accolades. Past investment includes the provision of around 20km of shared walkways/cycleways, 20km of on-road cycle lanes and over 200km of mountain bike tracks and trails. However there are still some gaps and work on improving the infrastructure will now move to the next stage with this joint New Zealand Transport Agency and Nelson City Council funded package.



For more information contact
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Creating Travel Choices



Giving you more options for walking, cycling, getting to school, work or wherever you want to go.



What are the projects?

The projects will be varied but will all contribute to the same set of goals:

- by making it safer we encourage more people to walk and cycle;
- extending, developing and linking Nelson's existing walking and cycling networks;
- working with schools to make walking and cycling for students easier and safer, helping to reduce peak hour traffic congestion;
- reducing deaths and serious injuries as a result of road crashes;
- providing more transport choices, particularly for those with limited access to a car;
- reducing the adverse environmental effects from land transport;
- contributing to making communities healthier.

Some of the projects have been earmarked already. Some of the projects will be specific to certain schools and we'll be finalising them as we work directly with the schools that have the greatest need.

The first year will be mainly about investigation and design with construction most likely to be happening in the 2013-16 timeframe.

Who will be affected?

Everyone in Nelson will have the opportunity to benefit from the improved facilities that will be built over the coming years.

Residents and businesses in certain areas will be directly affected and Council staff will be working closely with them to ensure there is as little disruption as possible.

Some areas may have parking spaces moved around to make way for safe cycle lanes or crossings and in a few cases some parking capacity may be lost but every attempt will be made to keep that to a minimum. In return residents will enjoy much improved facilities.



Benefits of walking and cycling



As well as reducing congestion on our roads, making it easier for people to choose a walking or cycling option for their travel means they enjoy health benefits too, physical and mental.

- Getting into a good habit of physical activity which helps you become fitter
- Arriving at work or school brighter and more alert
- Having more time to notice the world around you
- Better interaction with the local neighbourhood and community.

