

Bike Vision – Nelson/Tasman
www.heartofbiking.org.nz



REGIONAL CYCLING FRAMEWORK


2015 - 2025



**CYCLING TOWARDS
A BETTER FUTURE.**

OUR VISION:

**The Nelson Tasman
Region is
The Heart of Biking**



Our region is an integrated cycle mecca well known for its people-friendly spaces, facilities and events supported by a local culture that truly embraces all forms of cycling.

THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR VISION

INTEGRATION

An underlying principle to apply within and across 'sectors', organisations, planning, areas etc.

COLLABORATION

Working together to achieve a positive cycling future - Partners will work together and within their organisations to ensure actions and commitments are discussed, understood and acted on.

RECOGNITION

That the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts – need to keep thinking on a regional scale and of an overall regional cycling culture and of presenting Nelson Tasman as a 'cycling region' with multiple contributing elements and products.

ASPIRATION

We know that cycling contributes to 'livable / people-friendly' communities so how can we create something for our community to be proud of e.g. our leadership as a globally cycle friendly region.

ENGAGEMENT

With the broader community of those 'interested but concerned' to enable them to become regular cyclists and help ensure that all ages, abilities and cycling interests are catered for.

SPACE

Is required for cycling, including physical space for cycle paths, parking, trails etc., but also 'space' within public and council discussions and decision-making, and 'space' in the media in to help foster a cycling culture.

SAFETY

Is paramount/vital/important, especially for urban cycling





BACKGROUND

The concept of a regional cycling forum came out of a strategic planning workshop run by the Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust (NTCTT) in October 2012. The objectives suggested for the forum were;

- Share information on the various cycling initiatives in Nelson Tasman
- Identify opportunities to work together to promote the development of regional cycling infrastructure and Nelson Tasman as a cycling destination and
- Link in with other “top of the south” cycling opportunities and development.

On 9 October 2013 representatives of some 35 cycling organisations, cycling related businesses and key stakeholders, including both Councils, EDA and NTT (see appended list of organisations), assembled for the inaugural Regional Cycle Forum. The forum agreed with the concept of preparing a regional cycling framework to help further the objectives above and set up a working group to prepare a draft for discussion.

This document is the outcome of the group’s work to articulate a vision for cycling in Nelson Tasman and set out some of the needs and requirements that the Forum believes will help achieve this vision.

The Framework is intended to provide guidance for the councils and cycling organisations as well as to stakeholder organisations such as businesses, Nelson Tasman Tourism, DOC, EDA, and others. It is envisaged that there will be a need to regularly review this Framework to evaluate progress and to refocus on future requirements.

This document sets out the ‘why’ of a vision for cycling in our region. The last section covers the ‘what, who’ and some of the ‘when’, while looking at identified focus areas; Information and Planning, Physical Infrastructure and Marketing & Events.

UNDERSTANDING CYCLING

Before we can take an in-depth look into the framework we need to understand why people cycle and the different categories of cyclists there are.

WHY PEOPLE CYCLE

There are a range of reasons including;

- Getting to and from primary, intermediate and secondary schools and tertiary providers
- Daily commuting to work places
- General transport – from short to long trips – ‘utility’ transport such as shopping – all ages
- General health/enjoyment/recreation – all ages
- Touring – multi-day ‘Rail Trail’ type experiences – on-road inter-regional touring
- Specialty recreation (Needs in brackets);
 - Off - Road or Mountain Biking – full spectrum – beginners to advanced, non-competitive to competitive, cross country, downhill (range of general and special off-road tracks)
 - BMX (special track)
 - Track (velodrome)
 - Road racing (road circuits)

**Biking / cycling is fun,
healthy and a great way to
connect with your
community**



*30 minutes of cycling each day can be
all the exercise you need to halve
your chances of becoming obese or
diabetic*

**Biking/Cycling
=
Faster, Fitter, Cheaper,
Cleaner, Fun!**



CATEGORIES OF CYCLISTS

Portland in Oregon has classified four types of transportation cyclists in their city based on their surveys and polls that largely reflect their concerns about the safety of cycling;

- 'Strong and fearless' – those who ride regardless of conditions - less than 1% of population
- 'Enthusied and confident' – comfortable with sharing roadway but prefer separate facilities - 7% of population
- 'Interested but concerned' – people who are curious about cycling, like riding but are afraid to ride - 60% of population
- 'No way no how' – not interested or able to ride - 33% of population.

In Nelson Tasman, on-road cyclists in the first two categories have traditionally been catered for through the provision of the road network. However as the traffic volumes have increased the actual and perceived safety risks have also increased. This deters many in the 'interested but concerned' category from taking up cycling and has made it difficult for others in the 'interested but concerned' category to move to the 'enthused and confident' group.

At the same time, the establishment of off-road cycle ways and shared pathways has resulted in increasing numbers of active recreational cyclists who are seeking additional safe cycling facilities to cater for both adults and their children. Refocusing our resources and priorities is needed to help make cycling a mainstream transport as well as recreation activity.

For off - road or mountain biking the same basic categories will apply. We have good trails for the 'strong and fearless' and 'enthused and confident', but the biggest local and visitor market will be the 'Interested but concerned' group - they want the experience, but not the high-risk element of hard-core mountain biking. To cater for this large group of potential users it's necessary for us to provide good, appropriate cycling facilities to cater for both these adults and their children.



FOUNDATIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK

The cycle framework was created by 35 organisations that each have a vested interest in cycling in our region. This framework is founded on the proposition that aligned actions by responsible and committed agencies, organisations and individuals will lead to achieving our vision for the region. The framework is intended to work through a 'whole of community approach' and a 'whole of councils' approach.

The Nelson Tasman region has the potential to be a 'model' cycling community in New Zealand. It is already being promoted as the Heart of Biking as indicated on the Heart of Biking website.

Factors that contribute to this include;

- Existing range of cycling infrastructure available
- Increasing numbers of cyclists e.g. 26% increase in census figures from 2006 to 2013 for Nelson and 12% increase in Tasman for those who cycle to work
- In 2014 there were over 200,000 passes on the Tasman Great Taste Trail and 10,000 passes on the Dun Mountain Trail
- Favourable climate for cycling i.e. generally all year round, along with a diversity of landscapes
- Wide range of cycling focused community organisations and businesses
- Growing community and business support for cycling
- Existing tourism infrastructure
- Very supportive media
- Support from both councils, with significant resources and commitments from Tasman District Council to tourism and recreational cycling e.g. Tasman's Great Taste Trail and from Nelson City Council to urban cycling networks and the Dunn Mountain Trail.



Increase of people cycling to work from 2006 - 13



Nelson/Tasman leads the country with the highest number of sunshine hours per year which is excellent for cycling activity. Autumn & winter provide an ideal time for cycling activity.



CONNECTING COUNCILS, OUR FRAMEWORK & OUR CYCLING COMMUNITIES

Nelson City and Tasman District Councils have many roles and responsibilities with respect to cycling, including the planning, funding, and provision of cycling facilities and opportunities to expand both transportation and recreation cycling. There are many important Council strategies and plans that contain provisions and references to cycling or specific cycling focused documents like cycling strategies, however we need to ensure that these are current, relevant and cover all aspects of cycling.

The cycling community is keen to work with councils on cycling issues as they arise and to collaborate on the planning for cycling to ensure positive community benefits are achieved.

The Regional Cycling Forum believes there is an urgent need to develop a regional strategic plan for off road cycling and for both councils to review their current cycling strategies.

Council	Council Outcomes where the Councils, the framework and cycling community & organisations can connect	Community benefits of cycling
NCC & TDC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure: Our infrastructure is efficient, cost effective and meets current and future needs Community: Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient Recreation: Our communities have access to a range of social, educational and recreational facilities and activities Governance: Our Council provides leadership and fosters partnerships, a regional perspective and community engagement Economic: Our region is supported by an innovative and sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves the 'livability' of our communities Increased community accessibility and cohesion Good for our local economy Improves community safety and people's personal security Reduction in traffic congestion and vehicles emissions – improved air quality and part of climate change solutions Individual and community health benefits Sustainable transport mode <p>In short – cycling is fun, healthy, cost effective and a great way to connect with your community.</p>

THINKING STRATEGICALLY

This Framework has identified a range of issues, requirements, opportunities, objectives and actions that we believe are needed to build on what already exists and to assist in achieving the vision. These have been grouped under three principal focus areas;

1. Information and Planning
2. Physical Infrastructure
3. Marketing & Events

Our overarching goals are;

- Enhance Road & Cycle Safety
- Link our Communities
- Increase Tourism & Recreation Opportunities

The next few pages touch on the detail (what, who and when) of our focus areas and the direction we would like to see cycling go in the region.



OUR VISION: The Nelson Tasman Region is the Heart of Biking

Our Focus

INFORMATION & PLANNING

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

MARKETING & EVENTS

Our Intentions

To ensure an integrated and coordinated approach (both internally and externally) to address cycling issues and the planning of the cycling infrastructure.

To have a full range of cycling facilities that provides opportunities for the wide spectrum of cycle users and cycling interests

To ensure information on cycling opportunities and events is conveyed to local residents and visitors and to foster and facilitate a range of coordinated cycling events in the region.

Our Objectives

1. Review existing council cycling strategies and develop new regional cycling strategies where required
2. Provide a coordinated "voice" for cycling
3. Integrate a planning processes between council and cycling organisations
4. Provide an information sharing platform
5. Create partnerships
6. Provide ongoing cycling forums

1. Implement a Regional Off- road Biking Strategic Plan
2. Complete and extend to Tasman's Great Taste Trail
3. Complete the Velodrome
4. Link the Nelson CBD to the Port, Tahunanui and onto Annesbrook & Stoke Cycle ways
5. Complete other cycle routes with, where possible, separated facilities
6. Complete of the business case for the proposed Gondola
7. Provide further development & enhancement of the Epic Trails network
8. Provide continued development of safe routes to schools
9. Provide continued safe urban cycling improvements

1. Provide a Strategy for attracting and/or establishing major national and international cycling events
2. Provide support for marketing of the cycle trails, events, opportunities and facilities
3. Provide an events calendar

OUR OVERARCHING GOALS

- Enhance Road & Cycle Safety
- Link our Communities
- Increase Tourism & Recreation Opportunities



Faster, fitter, cleaner, cheaper, fun



FOCUS AREA 1: INFORMATION & PLANNING

Our Intention: To ensure an integrated and coordinated approach (both internally and externally) to address cycling issues and the planning of the cycling infrastructure. A collaborative approach to cycling with Councils, stakeholder organisations and land owners.

Objectives: Yr. 1 - 3	Key Partners
<p>1. Review existing council cycling strategies and develop new regional cycling strategies where required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a regional off - road cycling strategy, <u>in partnership</u> with key cycling organizations. An initial focus to be on the eastern hills adjacent to the Nelson – Richmond urban areas to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach that includes consideration of other recreational interests and biodiversity values. Review and update of any existing Council cycling strategies. 	Relevant cycling organisations, Councils and other stakeholders.
<p>2. Provide a coordinated “voice” for cycling: To ensure the best possible outcomes for cycling are planned for and our collective energies and resources are well aligned.</p>	Cycling organisations, and Councils
<p>3. Integrate a planning processes between council and cycling organisations: Development of processes to achieve integrated planning and priorities for cycling infrastructure and other cycling matters/issues within and between Councils and the relevant cycle organisations. This also extends to Identification of information, research and monitoring requirements and who will be responsible for these.</p>	Councils, cycling organisations and related business.
<p>4. Provide an Information sharing platform: Determining how information will be shared between cycling organisation's and those with interests in cycling and the general public and who will be responsible for this e.g. web information</p>	Councils, cycling organisations, any other stakeholders
<p>5. Create partnerships: Projects that involve forming partnerships with local organisations and/or businesses as part of a drive to create a cycling culture in Nelson and Tasman.</p>	Cycling organisations, Councils and other stakeholders such as EDA, NTT, Commerce Nelson, employers and retailers.
<p>6. Provide ongoing cycling forums: Ensuring that cycling organisations have an appropriate on-going forum and other channels of communication for collaboration, coordination, information sharing, regular review of this framework and clarity on the roles of individual cycle organisations.</p>	Cycling organisations and businesses and allied stakeholders.



FOCUS AREA 2: PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure relates to the facilities needed to provide opportunities for the full spectrum of different types of cyclists.

Our Intention: To have a full range of cycling facilities that provides opportunities for the wide spectrum of cycle users and cycling interests.

Proposed Timeframes

Objectives	Nelson City Council	Tasman District council
<p>1. Implement a Regional Off-Road Biking Strategic Plan for Nelson Tasman: The implementation aspect of the plan will have an initial focus on the eastern foothills adjacent to the Nelson – Richmond urban areas and will ensure an integrated and coordinated approach.</p> <p>Key Partners: NCC, TDC, Mountain Bike Trails Trust, NMBC, NTCTT, other cycling groups, other recreational groups, conservation organisations and landowners/managers.</p>	1 – 3yrs	1 – 3yrs
<p>2. Complete and extend the Tasman’s Great Taste Trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Wakefield to Woodstock section. • Completion of the Woodstock to Motueka section to complete the triangle • Extensions of Tasman’s Great Taste Trail within and beyond the triangle to provide link rides to such communities as Upper Moutere/Sarau, Tadmor, St Arnaud. <p>Key partners: NTCTT, TDC, NZ Cycle Trail Inc., local communities and businesses.</p>		1 – 3 yrs. 3 – 5 yrs. ongoing
<p>3. Complete of the Velodrome at Saxton Field: including the cycle safety training arena.</p> <p>Key partners: TDC, NCC, Saxton Velodrome Trust, users, training and education interests.</p>	1 – 2 yrs.	1 – 2 yrs.

<p>4. Link the Nelson CBD to the Port, Tahunanui and onto Annesbrook & Stoke Cycle ways: The proposed off-road shared path beside Rocks Road and routes through Tahunanui are a priority, to connect the Nelson CBD and Maitai shared pathway to the Stoke Railway Reserve, coastal cycle ways and Tasman's Great Taste Trail networks. Key partners: NCC, NZTA, BNB, NTCTT.</p>	1 – 3 yrs.	
<p>5. Complete other cycle routes with, where possible, separated facilities: These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of St Vincent St segregated cycle path from intersection of Gloucester St northwards through to Halifax Street and Maitai shared pathway • Completion of links across the Nelson CBD/Fringe and through Rutherford Park to Nelson North • Railway Reserve extension from top to bottom of Beatson Road • Saxton Field - southern entrance to Champion Rd beside Main Road Stoke and via internal network passed the velodrome • Upgrading the Wakatu Drive shared pathway to widen and smooth the surface and provide protection from coastal erosion • Extension of North Nelson Cycle way beyond Clifton Terrace School to the Glen and over Gentle Annie and onto Cable Bay and Ludd and Teal Valleys. <p>Key partners: NCC, NZTA, BNB, NTCTT, TDC, off-road an on road cycling organisations,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links through Richmond to the mountain bike trials on the foothills • Other off road and designated backroad cycle routes <p>TDC, NZTA, NTCTT, off-road an on road cycling organisations</p>	1 – 3 yrs.	ongoing
<p>6. Complete the business case for the proposed Gondola: linking Brook Valley with Fringed Hill. Key partners: NCLS, NCC, businesses, off-road cycling organisations.</p>	1 – 3 yrs.	
<p>7. Provide further development and enhancement of the Epic Trails network: Key partners: MTB Trails Trust, Councils, DOC & Forestry cos.</p>	ongoing	ongoing

<p>8. Provide continued development of safe routes to schools and colleges for cyclists and pedestrians: identification of particular priority areas including the cycle safety program for schools.</p> <p>Key partners: schools, colleges, NMIT, NCC, NZTA, BNB.</p>	ongoing	ongoing
<p>9. Provide continued safe urban cycling improvements: including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing speed limits, improving engineering standards (e.g. shoulder width, seal/chip specifications). • Directional signage to make it easier for cyclists to locate cycle ways, shared pathways, cycle lanes, routes, links and tracks • Improved lighting of urban cycle ways and shared pathways • Fixing on road pinch points • Disabled cyclist access • Increased secure cycle parking around the Nelson CBD and other destinations, including workplaces, bus depots and stops • Increased secure cycle parking around the centre of Richmond, Motueka, other town centres and other destinations. • Cycle signs for motorists <p>Key partners: NCC, TDC, NZTA, BNB and other cycling groups.</p>	ongoing	ongoing



FOCUS AREA 3: MARKETING AND EVENTS

These requirements relate to how information on cycling opportunities, facilities and events is made available to local residents, potential visitors and actual visitors, as well as fostering, facilitating and coordinating a wide range of cycling events in Nelson Tasman.

Our Intention: To ensure information on cycling opportunities and events is conveyed to local residents and visitors and to foster and facilitate a range of coordinated cycling events in the region.

Objectives:	Key Partners
<p>1. Provide a Strategy for attracting and/or establishing major national and international cycling events: including both one-off and on-going.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering support for a variety of cycling events that cater for a wide range of interests, abilities and fitness that are not only for local residents but also help attract visitors. Determining any special needs for cycling events, such as approved road racing circuits. 	<p>Cycling organisations, event organisers, NTT, Councils, EDA. Businesses, event organisers</p>
<p>2. Provide support for marketing of the cycle trails, events, opportunities and facilities by cycling organisations, Councils, Nelson Tasman Tourism and businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the opportunity to establish a “regional marketing support fund” Building the support for Bikefest Nelson (formerly the Nelson Cycle Festival) to make it the best cycle festival in New Zealand, with a strong community-focus. 	<p>Cycling organisations, Councils, NTT, cycling and related businesses. Bikefest Nelson</p>
<p>3. Provide an events calendar: (at least 12 months ahead) amongst cycling organisations and related / associated organisations / activities, such as using the “It’sOn” website.</p>	<p>Cycling organisations, related event organisers.</p>



Organisations involved in the Nelson Tasman Cycle Framework and Forums:



Bicycle Nelson Bays (BNB)
Bikeworks Ltd
Bikefest Nelson
Champion Agencies
Coppermine
Cycling Nelson Inc.
Department of Conservation (DOC)
Fernwood Holiday Park
Get Moving
Golden Bay Mountain Bike Club
Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park Inc.
Nelmac
Mountain Bike Trails Trust (MBTT)
Nelson BMX Club
Nelson Mountain Bike Club (NMBC)
Nelson City Council (NCC)
Nelson Cycle Hire
Nelson Cycle Lift Society (NCLS)
Nelson Economic Development Agency (EDA)

Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT)
Nelson Orienteering Club
Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust (NTCTT)
Nelson Tasman Tourism (NTT)
Nelson Triathlon and Multi Sport Club
NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)
Opus International
Palms Motel
Pine Hill Lodge
Saxton Velodrome Trust
Sport Tasman
Tapawera Promotions Association
Tasman District Council (TDC)
Tasman Wheelers
The Gentle Cycling Company
Ubike
VeloVino Tours
Wairoa Gorge Mountain Bike Park
Wheelie Fantastic Cycle Hire and Tours
Wheel Women



Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust
PO Box 3197, Richmond, Nelson 7050, New Zealand
admin@heartofbiking.org.nz, www.heartofbiking.org.nz
<https://www.facebook.com/cycletrails>