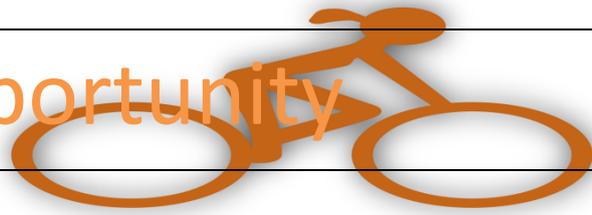


The Cycle Opportunity



The potential for cycling in Eastern Porirua

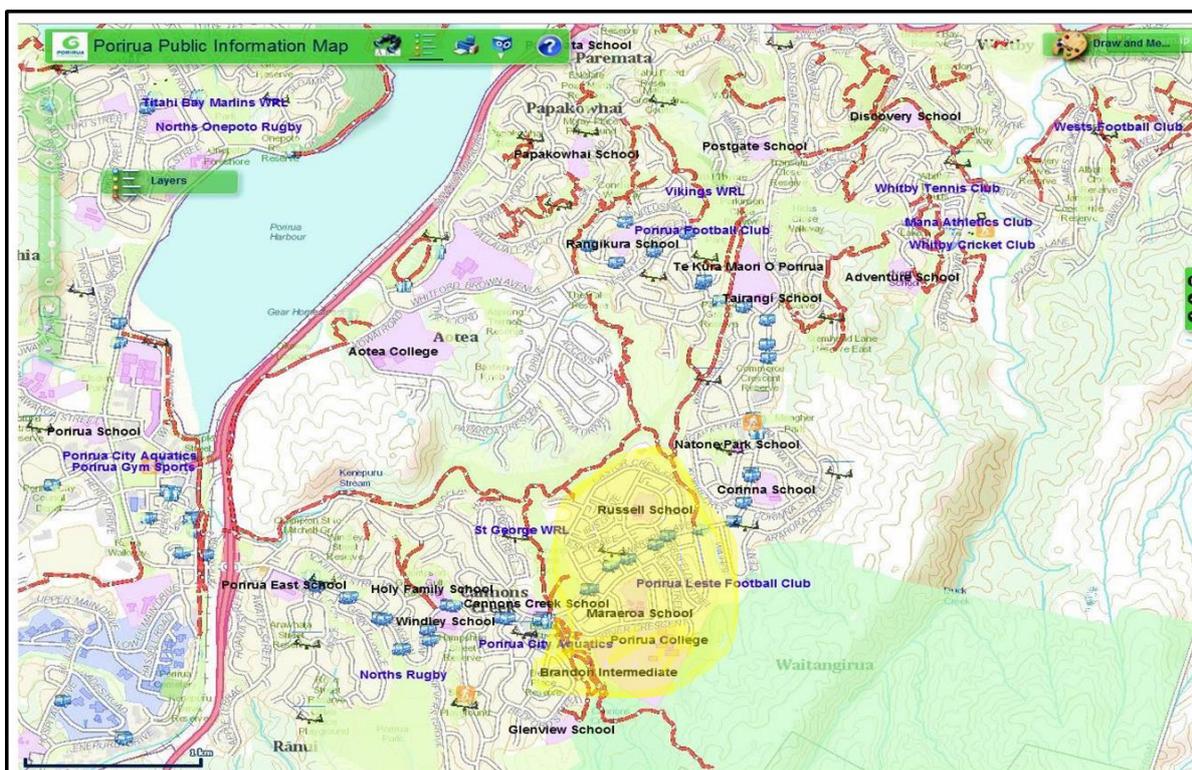
Kia ora kotou,

The cycle hui brought together a strong and diverse network of cycle champions who all have something significant to contribute to realise the potential for cycling in Eastern Porirua. There are even more people and organisations within and outside Porirua who are ready and willing to support cycling initiatives. There is also a considerable groundswell of support for active transport alternatives to be made fit and safe for purpose.

We have identified barriers to participation in cycling but they have little to do with the activity itself, which offers untold benefits. Working with all of the cycling partners in Porirua means we can think about the broader range of issues and look at them from every angle we can, and then work right across the local system to address them. By developing solid collaborations between organisations and people in the community we can make a major impact and ensure a sustainable cycling future.

A plan going forward

While we are gathering more information from the Eastern Porirua community and broadening our understanding of the lay of the land we are also planting cycling seeds in fertile places where we can affect change and increase uptake. To get the best result we need to position our seeds relatively close together (proposed area highlighted in yellow) so we can tend them more easily and they can also support one another. This will increase the impact and sustainability and allow for managed growth.



Why this area?

- It is central to both the Cannons Creek and Waitangirua commercial centres
- 4 schools - Maraeroa and Russell Primary Schools (combined roll 230), Brandon Intermediate (142), and Porirua College (522). Total # students = 894
- 2 early childhood centres at Maraeroa School
- Ability to go cycling throughout childhood and adolescence as schools and students maintain cycling as a core physical activity in schools
- Easy to share resources and collaborate
- Close to Bothamley Walking and Cycle Pathway
- Central area enabling growth in all directions
- Opportunity for the cycleway around Porirua College to be further developed and to be used by the students from all schools

Community connections at the heart of this mahi

Already we are seeing some seeds being planted or the ground being prepared. Sport Wellington is fully supportive of all initiatives and will work hard to facilitate and coordinate efforts. We believe that cycling is a powerful means to strengthen communities and improve physical and mental health, so it is right we do all we can to encourage people to take part. We will do this through partnering, knowledge sharing, expertise and influence. The project itself will also encourage and build leadership in the community.



The big picture

We do need to know of the bigger picture plans and changes that are likely to happen in Eastern Porirua over the next 10 years if we are to achieve a sustainable shift in behaviour and establish a cycle culture. Our plans cannot be at odds with any major structural changes.

The greatest current barrier to cycle uptake all over the world is safety, and this mostly concerns riding on the road and competing with car and truck traffic. Riding on the road is inherently dangerous. We need to provide alternatives to having to share the road with cars and trucks but if a road is to be shared then very safe designated and separated cycleways need to be constructed. One of the big factors in deciding what type of solution is best is to know the vehicle traffic flow rates.

Personally I am very concerned about the significant effects the Waitangirua Link Rd to Transmission Gully will have on Warspite Rd, the main Porirua East road corridor, and all the roads that feed into it. These tributary roads are where all the schools are located. This will make it very difficult to ensure safe cycling routes to school, a major incentive and milestone in creating a cycle culture in Eastern Porirua.

Building cycle readiness

We will be looking to do some targeted canvassing of the community in 2018 to gauge where the local interest lies in cycling. We do however need to promote cycling at the same time with lots of positive messaging so that people are making informed decisions when they respond to a survey. This is a responsibility of everyone who wants to see cycling become integrated into everyday life in Eastern Porirua.

The next cycle hui

It is important that we meet again early in the new year to keep the passion alive and discuss plans going forward. It will also be an opportunity to introduce some new people and possible partners to our group. I will send a doodle poll out shortly.

Thank you. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year

Naku, na

Mark Shanks

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