

Mountains to the Sea Cycleway

Notes from Second Public meeting 10th Nov 2009

Darfield Recreation Centre 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Economic Benefits / Impacts

- **The Cycleway is the anchor for niche opportunities.**
- **Part of the overall South Island destination**
- Utilise the Highway 73 Project benefits as a guide for the cycleway benefits. It will raise the profile of Selwyn District, but we need to be promoting the Canterbury destination in publicity.
- People need to overnight somewhere – accommodation required.
- Piggy back on the Otago Rail Trail concept / promotion.
- Kiwi Rail benefits.
- Remote experience. Focus on naturalness.
- Servicing accommodation and food, coffee.
- Track maintenance – employment.
- Get financial benefit information from Otago Rail Trail.
- Bike transport, bike hireage, bag drop opportunities.
- Enhancement of historical/art/ecological features.
- Guided tours.
- Spin off to other parts of the country/region.
- World class scenery.

Possible linkages with existing attractions

- Natural geology/natural history/ecology.
- Link into walking and cycling strategy of Selwyn District Council and WDC.
- Avoca historic attractions.
- Jet boating/kayaking/fishing.
- Transalpine
- Ski fields – off season use.
- Craigieburn Forest Park.
- Coast to Coast route revised or separate new event.
- Townships, Riwi Alley memorial, Springfield (Homer Simpson's donut!)
- Cave Stream.
- Flock Hill tours and cycle tracks.
- Great Alpine Highway. Highway 73 report, DoC and NZTA.
- Poulter mountain bike track.
- Lyndon Road – links to south. Keep the road open in winter – access to Terrace Downs resort/golf course.
- High end lodges. (Wilderness Lodge, Grassmere,
- Hunting
- National Park.
- Horse trekking.

Apologies

- Gerald Bruce Smith A Pass Assn.

- Hamish Faulkner and Ainsley
- Brent Lancaster Kiwi Rail

Planned Attractions

- Linking with new Castle Hill / Craigieburn Forest Park mountain bike attractions / tracks providing more adventurous biking.
- Castle Hill Village Assn and DoC have completed Environmental impact assessments.
- Great Alpine Highway Group (Ainsley). Link in with their plans and ideas.
- Porter Height's expansion – Michael Leigh? (Sir Kerry has contacts)
- Conservation Trust plans for a Kiwi Creche at Craigieburn.
- Central Plains water intake.
- Environment Canterbury cycleway.

Risks to the Cycleway

- Geotechnical risks at places like Staircase.
- Not finding funding for construction / maintenance.
- Cost of engineering gullies – is it affordable?
- If cycleway charges are too high this will put people off.
- Charges could only apply to private land not Conservation land.
- Resource consents turned down or conditions too onerous.
- Cost of easements/survey. Risk of losing easement/access rights if not properly registered. Who holds the easements?
- Capability of the Trust to maintain / drive the project.
- How the Trust is structured?
- Access to rail bridges (third party) denied.
- Climate and environmental risks.

Financial Support Locally

- \$1m? Environment Canterbury contribution.
- Kiwi Rail in-kind contribution through providing access.
- DoC contribution toward Avoca accommodation.
- Landowners contribution – Saving the Cycleway Trust, the cost of buying land.
- Trust to raise money from funding applications.
- LTCCP process needs to be harnessed to get contributions from Councils locked in.

Complementary Benefits

- Catch train to Arthurs Pass and cycle back.
- Central Plains Water canal could provide linkages.
- Existing planned cycleways.
- Go through to Greymouth?
- Emphasise the whole package:
 - rail trip
 - bikes available, gear transport
 - accommodation
 - links to other attractions
- Wet weather alternative for people visiting the west coast and Arthurs Pass.
- Need calendar of events happening to attract people over the whole season.

Who needs to be involved?

- Robin Judkins (Coast to Coast).
- Mountain bike clubs.
- Landowners.
- Bike touring event companies.
- Township communities.
- Community Boards.
- Community newspapers.
- Get township / reserve committees to give letters of support for the application.
- Community newsletters. Prepare article to distribute widely.
- Put on Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council website making people aware.

Who to involve ?

- On-Track, Kiwi Rail and Ngāi Tahu.
- DoC, people with legal background.
- Spokes.

Actions

- Partners to prepare letters of support to go with funding application.
- Proper press releases with a positive message.
- Newsletters to take back to communities/Community Boards.
- Public meeting to get Community Boards and township committees engaged.