

The Great Harbour Way and the regional cycling and walking strategy

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Great Harbour Way¹ concept

- A unique and iconic cycle/walking route around Wellington harbour
- Part of regional cycling and walking network, connecting with Hutt River Trail and the Rimutaka incline.

Petone to Wellington

- Key segment of the GHW cannot be safely/enjoyably used by cyclists/walkers
- Capital city and two other major cities of region are unconnected by a safe walking/cycling route
- Current cycle/walking path is not perceived as being enjoyable or safe
- Not enough room between rail line and highway for a quality cycle/walking facility

A seaward walk/bike path

We suggest developing a cycle/walking path on the seaward side of the rail/motorway corridor, in four stages:

- Petone-Horokiwi (already proposed by Opus 2005)
- Horokiwi-Ngauranga (proposed in Hutt Corridor Plan 2003)
- Ngauranga - Ferry terminal
- Ferry terminal – Wellington waterfront through CentrePoint development

Benefits

- Completing this link in the GHW will attract tourists and recreational users as does the Otago Rail Trail, or the US Great Allegheny Passage (which in 2007 generated NZ\$23 million/year in economic benefits²).
- Health benefits: at 50c/km cycled and \$1/km walked³, 500 cyclists and 20 walkers per day equates to approximately \$2 million / year in health benefits.
- Unlike roading infrastructure, the GHW will reduce city congestion and carbon emissions.
- Reclamation will protect the rail line from erosion and storm closures
- The GHW will improve access to the shoreline for fishers and other recreational users

An overseas comparison

Bodø city in Norway is planning to protect an existing bicycle/walking route with an air conditioned, illuminated Perspex tube: NZ\$32 million for 8km - “a manageable sum of money” according to the director of the roading authority⁴.

¹ <http://www.greatharbourway.org.nz/>

² <http://postgazette.com/pg/08209/899883-85.stm>

³ LTNZ/NZTA research announced at NZ walking conference <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0808/S00047.htm>

⁴ <http://www.nordicroads.com/website/index.asp?pageID=154>