Weekly



COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL 15 DECEMBER

COUNCIL SECURES FUNDING FOR CYCLEWAY LINK



Bike Taupō's Pete Masters (left), Taupō District Council asset manager transportation Claire Sharland, Deputy Mayor Kevin Taylor and Bike Taupō's Rowan Sapsford.

CYCLING WILL SOON be safer in Taupō, with the Taupō District Council securing funding from Waka Kotahi to build a cycleway linking Acacia Bay to Spa Road.

The new cycleway will travel via Norman Smith Street and Control Gates Bridge, and up a new shared pathway atop the embankment beside Tongariro Street. Taupō was one of 46 councils to receive funding from Waka Kotahi and Deputy Mayor Kevin Taylor said it was a fantastic outcome for the community.

"This initiative came out of a conversation with Taupō District Council and Bike Taupō seeking to improve the safety of cyclists coming in to town from Acacia Bay. The existing track up from Control Gates is pretty narrow and pretty steep, and the new pathway will have a much more manageable gradient up the hill past Morell Motors and through to Countdown.

"I'm really thrilled that our transport team picked up the challenge and ran with it to secure this funding. This new link down Norman Smith Street and across Control Gates Bridge to Spa Road really pulls all our existing shared pathways together and means cyclists and pedestrians can get around

Bike Taupō's Pete Masters said he was looking forward to seeing the link complete.

"We've been working really proactively with the council to get a better outcome for cyclists, so it's great to see this is about to become a reality. It's always been rather ironic that

the cars had the easier gradient up the hill while cyclists had

Bike Taupō's Rowan Sapsford also welcomed the announcement.

"I have two boys who cycle to school and it would be nice to not have to give them overly detailed instructions about avoiding specific sections. The new link is going to make cycling into town from Acacia Bay and Nukuhau a lot easier and safer, and will get a lot more kids riding to school and adults commuting by bike, which is a great thing."

Council's asset manager transportation Claire Sharland, who worked on the funding application, said Waka Kotahi's Transport Choices funding programme was currently indicative and the council would be working with Waka Kotahi to explore how the project could be progressed in line with Transport Choices timeframes.

"We applied for \$350,000 and are looking forward to working with Waka Kotahi on a final figure. The new link will mean that the shared pathway network from Mapara Road through Acacia Bay into Taupō township will link through to the existing Great Lake Pathway that runs along the lakefront, as well as the new shared pathway that runs alongside the East Taupō Arterial highway out to the airport roundabout.

"This is a really extensive network, one that the community is embracing for both recreation and transportation. We know the community has been keen for this link and it has been great to be able to work with Bike Taupō.

ROBERTS STREET PROGRESS

Mixed weather has not slowed down the team on Roberts Street in the lead up to Christmas.

Local paving company DW Landscapes has been on the job and you will see them working around the Roberts Street/ Ruapehu Street intersection, and our hoggin crew have also been back on site (hoggin is a sand/gravel landscaping product that has an off white finish to add texture).

We will start to see more of the site opened up over the coming days and the team hopes to open up the footpath on the lakefront side for full use before Christmas. Some of the grassed areas laid down will be fenced over summer as we need the grass to bed in without foot traffic. We will still be occupying the south-eastern end of the site over the break so we can make a quick start on the final pieces of work to be put in place afterwards. The mana whenua features will be cloaked until they have been formally blessed.

Lastly, the CAMEX crew will do a site-wide tidy up, including around Ferry Road, creating more space for car parking in the near future. Thanks to the teams on the ground who have done a fantastic job and to everyone around the site for your patience









KEVIN TAYLOR





YVONNE WESTERMAN

































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