

I would like to encourage councillors to consider one of the council's key goals "**A connected city with a safe, accessible and low carbon transport system**":

The strategic priorities to achieve this include:

- Safety: prioritising safety improvements according to risk
- Travel choices: prioritising investment and space to improve the provision of active modes and public transport
- Connectivity of centres: improving connections within and between centres and the central city for public transport and active modes

In this light, I ask that the councillors support our project to connect the coastal communities north of Dunedin with a shared-use path for cycling and walking.

In December 2022, under the Dunedin Tracks Network Trust, our group, the Coastal Communities Cycle Connection, was successful in our application to the Lottery Community Facilities Fund for the costs of preparing a technical feasibility study for our project. That report will be submitted this May and a copy will be sent to all councillors.

We have already been granted letters of 'Approval in Principle For a Shared-Use Pathway' from KiwiRail for each of the two segments between Waikouaiti-Karitane and Warrington-Waitati.

We were pleased to be involved in the DCC workshop held by the Transport Strategy team in March, reviewing our city's strategic walking and cycling routes with the goal of developing a walking and cycling master plan for the next 10 years. This master plan will identify what has changed and where our main walking and cycling routes should be. This will help the council put together a programme of works to improve the safety of those routes and offer broader transport choices across the city. The Coastal Connection proposed routes will be included in this masterplan.

We ask for the councillors' support in fulfilling the next steps for our project as it moves along the progress points to receive funding - inclusion in the Regional Land Transport Plan and National Land Transport Plan.

This project is widely supported - our funding application was backed by Kāti Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki, the Otago Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board and many members of the public.

Let's make Dunedin New Zealand's most liveable city. We look forward to working together with the council on this project.

Kā mihi  
Emily Cooper  
Coastal Communities Cycle Connection