

# **Submission on the Greater Wellington Regional Cycling Strategy**

## **From the Greater Wellington Regional Council**

### **Introduction**

This is a submission by the Greater Wellington Regional Council as one of the agencies involved in the implementation of the Regional Land Transport Strategy. This submission is in two parts. There are comments on “The Strategy” which is part two of the document published for public consultation and part one which deals with strategy development and analysis.

### **Part Two – The Strategy**

The Greater Wellington Regional Council supports the vision and the five objectives of the strategy. GWRC recognises the limited role that cycling currently has in commuter travel and for journeys to school. The Council acknowledges that even a small change in cycle numbers will have benefits for users and other travellers.

The Council supports the need for renewed advocacy for cycling across the region and as such agrees that it is necessary to provide some resources to allow this. It believes initially that may best be achieved by the whole of local government in the region, with the assistance of the LTSA, funding a position within the local government environment to act as a regional cycling advocate. If this proves successful to promote other resources to expand that capability over time, funding permitting.

As a first step towards this GWRC will work with the local authorities of the region to establish this resource.

### **Part One – Strategy Development**

GWRC is of the view that there is insufficient analysis of the links between cycling and safety. Safety being both physical road hazards and social or community personal safety issues, for example the safety of children travelling by bicycle to school unaccompanied.

GWRC would also like to see more evidence of the health benefits of cycling.

These issues will need to be addressed if the resources local government is to commit to advocacy are to be properly targeted. The first responsibility of the regional cycling advocate may well be to research these matters.