



Simon Bridges, Michael Woodhouse

25 JULY, 2017

Helping more kids learn to ride a bike for life

Transport Minister Simon Bridges and ACC Minister Michael Woodhouse have welcomed an initiative for the development of a national cycling education system aimed at getting more kids riding bikes safely.

Transport Minister Simon Bridges announced today that the Transport Agency and ACC have approved an initial \$2.7 million of funding to establish the system by June 2018. The total investment including delivery of cycling education is expected to be around \$24 million over four years.

“Cycling is an important life skill and we want to make sure that all kids in New Zealand have the opportunity to learn to ride a bike safely from an early age,” Mr Bridges says.

“Cycling is a great way to get around, to stay active, or to just have fun with friends and family. Kids love to ride bikes but in recent years there has been a significant drop off in kids cycling. This new system is designed to help reverse that trend and establish a safe system approach to cycling that will see a return of more kids getting around by bike every day.

“The Government’s \$333 million Urban Cycleway Programme is creating safer and more connected shared paths and cycleways throughout New Zealand.

“As we improve our environment for people on bikes and more people start to cycle, we need to make sure they have the skills, experience and confidence required to enjoy the ride,” Mr Bridges says.

“Over the last five years, bike related injury claims to ACC have increased by 25 per cent, so ensuring people have the skills to ride safely is paramount,” Mr Woodhouse says.

“Many Councils around New Zealand are already delivering some cycling education. This new national approach, designed and delivered jointly by central and local government, and the community, will build on the great work already underway. This is all about making it more effective and reaching more people and being able to assess its impact on improving safety and encouraging more people to ride.”

The system, aligned with the school curriculum, is focused on giving people the skills they need at the right time in their life – from learning bike handling skills in primary school through to learning road rules and how to ride on-road when they are ready. The system will also offer opportunities for adults who haven’t ridden a bike for a while with programmes designed to help them improve their skills on both standard and e-bikes.

“We’re developing this national programme using very best practice, some of it home grown right here in New Zealand. We are leading the world with our Bikes in Schools programme,” Mr Bridges says.

“By 2021 our goal is to double the number of children currently receiving on-road training and to double the number of schools running the Bikes in Schools programme.”

More information:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/national-cycling-education-system>

[Simon Bridges](#) [Michael Woodhouse](#) [ACC](#) [Transport](#)

Hon Simon Bridges

Minister of Transport

1 April 2016



Media Statement

Whangarei school on the right cycling track

Transport Minister Simon Bridges has announced the Government will invest \$500,000 to help establish cycle projects in schools in line with the Urban Cycleways Programme.

Through the National Land Transport Fund, the Government will make a funding contribution to the Bikes in Schools programme to help establish school cycle projects in towns and cities where the Urban Cycleways Programme is already underway.

Mr Bridges says making cycling a safer, more reliable transport option is a core priority.

“Over the next few years the Government will invest \$500,000 in helping to bring cycle projects to fruition in 35 to 40 schools. We want to help support schools to be part of the Bikes in Schools Programme to encourage all New Zealand children to ride a bike regularly,” Mr Bridges says.

St Frances Xavier School in Whangarei is the first school to receive \$15,000 in National Land Transport Funding to establish a new 500-metre bike track which opened today.

“This investment in St Frances Xavier School works well with the planned Whangarei cycleway network. It aims to support both increased use of the cycling routes, and encourage wider community support for cycling.

“The school will also receive new bikes and helmets along with storage facilities to ensure all children have the opportunity to learn to ride in a safe environment.”

Through the Urban Cycleways Programme central and local government are working together to deliver \$333 million of new cycleway projects throughout the country over the next three years - the single biggest investment in cycling in New Zealand’s history.

Over the next three years 54 projects are scheduled to be completed through the programme.

More information about the programme can be found at:
www.nzta.govt.nz/UCP.

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Nikki Kaye

2 OCTOBER, 2013

Government supports school cycle and fitness tracks

Associate Education Minister Nikki Kaye today announced a change in how schools can use their capital funding to support building bicycle or fitness tracks at schools.

“We know that cycle tracks have numerous benefits, including helping to develop safe cycling habits and building up confidence and fitness,” Ms Kaye says. “I want to make it easy for schools that want to promote exercise to engage students in lifelong healthy habits that also help with their learning.

“There are already at least 15 schools that have taken up the Bikes in Schools programme and we want more schools to be able to create safe ways of learning the basics of cycling and promoting general exercise. This can be difficult for schools in built-up cities, for examples, primary schools in central Auckland.

“The Ministry of Education has amended policy so that cycle tracks can be funded along with other projects that create modern learning environments from capital funding. The tracks could also be used for general fitness activities such as walking and running.

“Schools’ capital funding will meet up to 50 per cent of the costs of the tracks with the schools funding the other half. This could be through fund raising or co-funding by a range of organisations including philanthropic trusts and sports funders.

“From my discussions with the Bikes in Schools project I know there are other projects in the pipeline that could benefit from confirming this contribution from the Ministry of Education budget.

“Currently there are cycle track projects underway that involve different forms of funding, including philanthropic trust money.

“This confirmation of the change to funding means schools can have certainty that they will be supported in the construction of these cycle and fitness tracks.

“This policy change is about incentivising healthy learning environments.

“The tracks cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to construct and range from 200 to 500 metres around. Maintenance of the track will be covered by the normal funding for maintaining school grounds,” Ms Kaye says.

A school that has used its capital funding to address health and safety concerns and has undertaken all essential infrastructure projects will be able to use residual funding to create cycle or fitness tracks. The change in policy takes effect immediately.

Nikki Kaye Education