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Joint Media Release from Low Carbon Kāpiti and Kāpiti Cycling Action

Council vote for Waikanae road safety delights advocacy groups

Kāpiti Coast District Council's decision to create safe cycle lanes on the former SH1 at Waikanae is good news for locals, the town centre and the environment, say advocacy groups.

There were two options on the table the council's March 15 meeting: one for 32 parallel carparks, cycle lanes and a buffer zone between them (Option 1), the other replacing parallel carparks with angle parking (a total of 41 parks) and no cycle lanes (Option 2).

Kāpiti Cycling Action and Low Carbon Kāpiti had called for the council to do the right thing for road users' safety, cyclists and the environment by voting for Option 1. The Waikanae Community Board had earlier voted in favour of Option 2, on behalf of local retailers. The New Zealand Transport Agency, New Zealand Police, Kāpiti Older Persons Council, Ti Ati Awa Town Centres Working Group, Doctors for Active Safe transport and the Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Advisory Group also all recommended Option 1 over Option 2.

An NZTA safety audit concluded the angle parking arrangement of Option 2 was unsafe for cyclists and other road users due to the lack of space for parked vehicles to reverse out.

Lynn Sleath from Kāpiti Cycling Action welcomes the decision, saying it's a vote for common sense.

"It's great to see the council thinking broadly about what's best for the whole community, not just today, but for years to come.

"Encouraging more cycling is a major opportunity for Waikanae. Our vision is for a vibrant community to which cyclists can safely travel from all over Kāpiti via a network of cycleways and cycling lanes, spending money in local businesses as they go."

Jake Roos, from Low Carbon Kāpiti, said the decision is a big win for the community.

"We worked alongside Kāpiti Cycling Action in this campaign because we want to see the district implement climate change solutions, especially those that bring additional benefits to the community.

"Cycling is one of these. It's good for our health, our economy and our environment and it's great to see the council taking positive steps to make it safer. Option 1 will also benefit other road users, who obviously do not want to be involved in collisions either.

"More and more people are taking to bikes and e-bikes to get around. Providing better, safer facilities will encourage even more people to ride. "

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