

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinary meeting of the
Works and Infrastructure Committee

Thursday 26 November 2015
Commencing at 9.00am
Council Chamber

Civic House

110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

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Motion

A. A1463479 - M Saunders Cycle Walkways Handout

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20/11/15

Tui Haven, 18 Warwick Street, Richmond.

Submissions, March 2015, NCC, TDC, Long Term Plan, Works Committee Meeting 26.11.15

Mayor and Concillors,

Nelson City Council.

Cycle / Walkways,

I have further expanded on the information provided in my earlier Submission below.

Along with many other users that I have spoken to, I am very concerned with the 'rule' that walkers should 'KEEP TO THE LEFT' whilst using shared Cycleways/Walkways. This creates unnecessary conflict between users, heightened by the ever increasing numbers making use of these fine recreational facilities. To have walkers with their backs to cyclists that are approaching from behind them is a real safety issue, increasing numbers of 'speedy' commuting cyclists have added to this problem.

'Keep to the left hand side', really, who in their right mind would want to walk with their backs to cyclists.

"Of the four accidents I have recorded since end of May, three have occurred to walkers being hit from behind". Cynthia McConville.

I strongly suggest that the following safety measure be implemented : Keep to the right side.

The safe walking 'Road Code' wording: 'Walkers should face oncoming traffic where a road has a grass verge, or no footpath, ie keep to the right hand side facing oncoming traffic', NZCT Road Code 2013.

Walkers are the most vulnerable users of these facilities, now by walking to their right on cycle/walkways, and facing oncoming cyclists etc., eye contact between cyclists and walkers becomes the norm, oncoming cyclists can then pass – to the walkers left - around the walkers, walkers will invariably keep well to their right, so conflict is avoided. Same for mobility scooters, and battery powered cycles, keep left, along with the cyclists keeping left, who can then past the walkers to their left, with a friendly "Hello, have a nice day". End of conflict. No more "Get out of my way, I'm coming through"

Keep to the right hand side for walkers, walkers with prams, walkers with dogs, dogs well to the walkers right, on the grass verge, etc. I have met a number of walk users that have already adopted the above practice for their own safety, but in reality are in conflict with the 'official information' from both councils.

Conflict between users occurs under the Great Taste Trails Bylaw Clause 6.6, the NCC Safety First Cycleways/Walkways information, and current Road Code 2013, page 262. This is a 'Health and Safety' issue under the H & S Act, ie. If you have been alerted to a safety hazard, and do nothing to rectify that hazard, and that hazard creates an incident or accident, you are in breach of the Act.

Both Councils and NZTA are to be congratulated on their continued support of these fine facilities, but please implement the above safety measure as soon as possible, to make it safe and more enjoyable for all our users.

Regards, Malcolm Saunders.

A1463479

Malcolm Saunders, Public Forum
Works and Infrastructure Committee
26 November 2015