

Ohakune/ Raetihi cycle and walkway

In July/August we asked which services matter most, and where changes could be made, to help keep rates affordable. Your feedback has helped shape proposals to reduce service costs and the amount funded through rates.

This proposal includes potential savings and other details that may change your views.

Please tell us what you think.

What we are proposing

Council is considering whether it should continue supporting development of the proposed Ohakune-Raetihi cycle/walkway connection.

Council's current Long Term Plan assumptions include a contribution of up to \$190,000 towards delivery of the project, with the balance of funding expected to come from external sources (yet to be secured).

The current funding model assumes the completed pathway would be owned and maintained by a trust or another third-party organisation rather than Council. However, no ownership or maintenance arrangement has been confirmed.

YOUR RATES YOUR SERVICES YOUR PLAN

LONG-TERM PLAN 2027/37



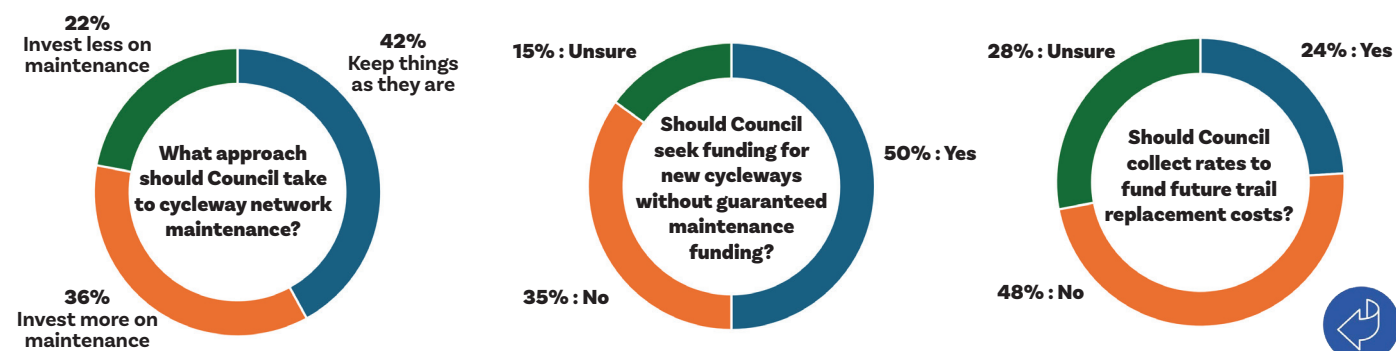
What we deliver

Council currently supports a network of walking and cycling facilities across the district. These facilities provide recreational opportunities, support health and wellbeing, encourage active transport, and contribute to the visitor economy.

Like all Council services and infrastructure, walking and cycling facilities have both upfront costs and ongoing responsibilities. **Before supporting any new asset, Council must consider who will own it, who will maintain it, and who will carry the long-term financial responsibility for repairs and renewals.**

What you told us

Previous engagement showed strong support for cycleways and trails across the district. At the same time, many respondents expressed concerns about the long-term cost of maintaining and replacing recreational assets. If no trust or community organisation is willing to own and maintain the pathway, should Council and local ratepayers take on that responsibility?



Project considerations

There are a number of outstanding issues relating to ownership, maintenance responsibilities and liability for infrastructure with the route that currently remain unresolved. This includes the need to gain agreement around the use of a privately owned bridge.

Outstanding issues requiring resolution include:

- Route selection and landowner agreements
- Property access arrangements
- Bridge infrastructure and bridge ownership responsibilities
- Trail construction and surfacing
- Signage and wayfinding
- Vegetation management
- Health and safety obligations
- Insurance and liability arrangements
- Future maintenance and renewal responsibilities

Ratepayer contribution

Council's funding assumptions for the project are based on:

- **a one-off contribution of up to \$190,000, (\$95,000 FY2030/31 and \$95,000 FY2031/32) and,**
- **securing external funding to cover construction costs, and**
- **a trust or third-party organisation owning and maintaining the completed pathway.**

Council's proposed \$190,000 contribution to developing the project is indicative only.

If ownership and maintenance by a trust or other third party is not secured ratepayers could face costs arising from ownership, maintenance, bridges, trail renewals, vegetation management, inspections, signage, insurance, liability and any other operational requirements.

Further feasibility, design, costing and ownership work is needed before a final decision is made.

Community choices

Option 1: Continue supporting the pathway: Continue progressing planning and feasibility work, seeking external funding opportunities and ownership arrangements.

Option 2: Stop supporting the pathway: Withdraw Council funding support and avoid future ownership and funding uncertainty.

Questions

1. Do you support Council continuing to pursue development of the proposed Ohakune-Raetihi Shared Path connection? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
2. Do you support Council contributing up to \$190,000 towards the project if external funding and ownership arrangements can be secured? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
3. If no trust or community organisation is willing to own and maintain the pathway, should Council take ownership and responsibility for the asset including financial liabilities? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
4. Where do you live?

☐ Taumarunui	☐ Ohura	☐ Ongarue	☐ Owhango	☐ Ohakune
☐ Waimarino	☐ Rangataua	☐ Raetihi	☐ Waiouru	☐ Other