

Submission on proposed variations to the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 2021

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Name of organisation (if applicable)

Fiordland Trails Trust

My submission is

That consideration and consultation with the Fiordland Trails Trust be included in the strategy.

The Trust is building multi purpose trails for the benefit of the whole community to use. Our first trail Lake 2 Lake - Te Anau to Manapouri is nearing completion and after this Te Anau Downs is our next destination. This has all been achieved with no central government funding and very little local government funding. Our long term plan is for additional trails to be built and yet the Te Anau/Manapouri area has been totally overlooked despite substantial and rapid tourism growth. We have had over 37,000 users on the first leg of the Lake2Lake trail in less than 12 months and we note that other local businesses have been able to leverage off the trail thereby improving the overall general economy for the Te Anau area.

Through working with the Trails Trust and exploring central government funding initiatives, it has been evidenced that the Te Anau/Fiordland area is overlooked. This is again currently reflected in the Otago Southland Regional transport plan. The Trust's robust planning and costing strategies have received praise from across the district for being efficient, effective and well thought through in nature. We therefore believe that we can also add value to the Otago Southland plan from this perspective too.

Safety for cyclists should also be considered across the entire Fiordland area. As an example, the

Milford Road has now become dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists starting from the Upukerora bridge out towards Milford. The increase of daily traffic travelling to Milford, lack of passing and cycling lanes and turning traffic into the subdivisions along the highway from Te Anau all give cause for concern and need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.