



To: Otago Southland RLTP Consultation
Environment Southland
Private Bag 90116
Invercargill 9840

29th January 2018

Dear Russell Hawkes,

RE: Submission to the proposed variations to Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plans 2015-2021

On behalf of the Ride Southland Governance Group established mid-2017 to administer and implement the regional Southland Cycling Strategy 2016-2026 on behalf of the regional/district councils in Southland we would like to include our programme, the strategy and any cycling related projects to be highlighted in the plan and given priority. The Ride Southland Governance Group has memberships from the Southland District Council, Invercargill City Council, Gore District Council, Environment Southland, Department of Conservation, New Zealand Transport Authority and three community representatives. The Southland Cycling Strategy was developed by a steering group under the guidance of Venture Southland with the initial draft approved by the Governance Group in 2017.

The Ride Southland Governance group wishes to makes the following comment or request in relation to the proposed variations to the Southland Regional Land Transport Plans 2015-2021:

Page 55 Subheading "The opportunity to create a network of cycle rides". Ride Southland requests an addition to this section acknowledging the formation of the Ride Southland Governance Group and its Vision Statement: *"To provide quality safe cycling infrastructure and increase cycling participation so that the people of Southland will gain in health, quality of life and appreciative use of their outstanding natural environment"*. The Strategy is currently being redrafted to form the basis of an NZTA endorsed business case to be used in further program business case development for projects that may qualify for funding from the National Land Transport Fund. On completion of this project the Governance Group are likely to endorse projects for submission through the Regional Land Transport Plan being made from Approved Organisations.

A stocktake of current and future cycling opportunities for Southland is currently underway and will include the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, the Bluff to Invercargill cycle trail, an extensive Invercargill City Council cycling network, Gore District Council cycle network, the Fiordland Trails Trust cycle trail which connects Te Anau to Manapouri which had approx. 37,000 people cycling the trail in 2016 and with plans to extend the trail to the Te Anau Downs and other trails and tracks available within the Southland Region. Further a network of Heartland Rides have been proposed by the New Zealand Transport Agency to connect existing trail in Southland and will form part of the stocktake.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

CR Alex Crackett
Chair of Ride Southland Governance Group