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BIKE FREELY PROGRAMME IN WELLINGTON CITY

I refer to your petition that you presented to Council on 27 June 2008.

The Wellington City Council has been approached by a number of potential operators requesting support of their bike hire or public bikes schemes. Each of these operators would like Council to provide bike parking at no cost to them. This model is used elsewhere in New Zealand and successfully on a large scale in Paris.

The Council does not believe that it is appropriate at this time to support a bike hire scheme because of the cost and because the target market for users is visitors, a need better accommodated in Wellington by walking. Other cities are more sprawling and suited to cycling but the compact inner city of Wellington is more suited to walking or short bus trips. Cycling in central Wellington for inexperienced riders could lead to an increase in injuries.

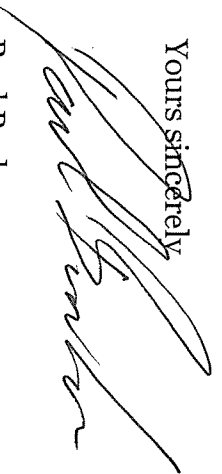
We can assure you we want to make cycling as safe as possible and as accessible as possible as it can be in Wellington. As you can imagine, it is a very difficult task to balance the competing needs of all road users (especially considering Wellington's topography).

Our draft Cycle policy has been considered by our Strategy and Policy Committee. It will now go out to public consultation sometime in August and will be considered for adoption before the end of the year.

I encourage you to make a submission, particularly as you are out there on your bike and have the advantage of speaking from first-hand experience. You will be able to do so online using the link: <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/index.html>

I am happy to discuss these issues or any other cycling issues further.

Yours sincerely



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