

Bike to the Future: Moving beyond safety to comfort

Claire Pascoe

Cycling Delivery Manager, National Cycling Team

In the last two years, New Zealand has learnt a lot about providing for people who ride bikes, and the 75% of people who would like to ride bikes in their towns in cities if the network felt safer. Currently, cycling has the biggest customer gap of all the transport modes, but the Urban Cycleways Programme aims to reverse the declining trend in trips by bike and is already showing promising results.

This session will introduce the recently released Cycle Network Guidance that has provided a better understanding of the types of facilities needed to create attractive networks and discuss the differences between actual and perceived safety of riding a bike. We've learnt that details matter and that even if we make cycling technically safer, we may still fail to achieve a large increase in the number of people on bikes if we don't make it comfortable.

The session will describe various efforts to make cycling 'comfortable' around the country, why this involves changing our transport culture and provide examples of where this is paying off.