

Ranolf to CBD Street Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ranolf to CBD Street Project

The project is part of the 10-project CyWay Programme which aims to make riding a bike in Rotorua city a safe, enjoyable and viable option for all.

This project will see a widened shared two-way path constructed on the eastern side (hospital side) of Ranolf Street from Devon Street to Lake Road.

This path will serve five schools, Glenholme Primary, St Mary's Primary, Rotorua Primary, Rotorua Intermediate and link to the Seventh Day Adventist School on Tilsley St (approximately 1,900 students attend these five schools).

Why Ranolf Street?

Ranolf Street connects with existing cycleways on Sophia Street and Lake Road, making a link from one end of town to the other. It also intersects the inner city, the lakefront and three primary schools, making it a direct route for users.

What is a shared path?

A shared path is like a footpath that permits both pedestrians and bike riders. The path is widened to accommodate different types of users but is separated from vehicle traffic so it is safer for users.

Signage along the shared path will encourage users to be courteous and to watch out for each other.

Why the eastern side of road?

Council chose the eastern side of the road for a number of reasons including:

- Fewer trees to remove and replace
- More space to widen the path without encroaching on the roadway
- Footpath was older and in more need of repair
- Avoid loss of parking space

In 2016 council sought feedback from affected schools and businesses along Ranolf Street and they identified a number of important factors they wanted to be taken into consideration in the design, including parking, traffic flow and street scape. A path on the eastern side was the best option to minimise the changes and impacts.

The location of the path on the Eastern side of the road reduces the number of unsupervised crossings needed for children at three of the schools. Provision has been made for Rotorua Intermediate School and identified crossing points will be improved to allow safer passage.

Who will use the shared path?

Everyone is encouraged to use the shared path but this project is especially aimed at making riding a bike more viable for:

- Elderly
- Those with mobility issues
- School children
- Parents and adults accompanying children to and from school
- Commuters and recreational cyclists who do not feel safe on the road

Some parts of the footpath are new, why are you removing it already?

Where we can we are retaining existing footpath that is in good condition and is wide enough. This includes the block from Amohau Street to Eruera Street.

Who do we need cycleways?

Rotorua's CyWay Programme is for all people in Rotorua who want to give bike riding a go and want a safe space where they can try it out. We want to encourage more people to the cycleway network.

Most confident bike riders choose to continue using the road which they are allowed by law to do. The shared path is for both pedestrians and bike riders, especially those who are new or more vulnerable like children or elderly.

Analysis shows the number one reason 60% of Rotorua people won't ride as a form of transport or recreation is because they don't want to ride on the road. New or vulnerable riders, pedestrians and those on mobility devices feel more comfortable and safer when they are separated from the traffic.

Why are trees being removed?

Retaining the street scape is a top priority but in some sections where the path needs to be widened existing trees will need to be removed.

The five maple trees between Malfor Road and Victoria Street have been identified as a significant part of the streetscape so the path there will accommodate the trees.

In the other sections of the path council's parks and recreation team have assessed the trees and found that the eastern side of the road had fewer trees and that they are in a poorer condition than others along Ranolf Street.

Where trees are removed council will look to replace them. The replanting will improve the streetscape with a more consistent look.

How will we cross the road?

Courtesy crossings will be built on all side roads (except bus routes and main roads like Malfroy Road) to create a safer place for users to cross the road.

Other crossing points are located along the route - the safest options are listed below:

1. Pedestrian crossing at Glenholme School entrance
2. Traffic signals at Amohau Street
3. Pedestrian crossing at Kuirau Park
4. Lake Road end traffic signals
5. Kea Crossing at St Mary's (when it is manned before and after school on week days)

Won't a shared path make it less safe for pedestrians?

Most confident bike riders like to stay on the road but it will be important to educate all users about courtesy and sharing with care to build a positive culture around use of facility.

Share with care signage will be placed along the cycleway to remind users to be courteous and watch out for others.

If you are a pedestrian and nervous about bike riders on the shared path, the footpath on the opposite side of the road will remain bike-free.

Won't cars backing out of driveways pose a risk to bikers?

A shared path should be treated the same way as any footpath. Drivers need to take care and follow standard road user rules when exiting and entering their driveways. We encourage drivers to exit forward-facing to give greater visibility of traffic and shared path users.

Where possible a buffer is built between the shared path and property boundary to improve visibility for drivers and path users.

Who do I call if I have any more questions?

For more information about this project or the CyWay programme please phone Rotorua Lakes Council on 07 348 4199 or email to info@rotorualc.nz