

Proposal for the Tahunanui cycle/walk trail



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Summary

Tahunanui is the primary centre of visitor accommodation for Nelson, and due to its stunning beach and associated amenities the area is a major destination for the region's visitors and residents. Despite this profile, Tahunanui does not have safe, off-road through-routes for walkers and cyclists.

Recreational and tourism cycle traffic through the Tahunanui area is predicted to increase significantly with the opening of the first stages of the nationally-rated Tasman Cycle Loop Trail. For these riders there is no clear or market-appropriate link to connect that trail to this area's beach, amenities and visitor accommodation, or to the coastal route into Nelson City.

The proposed trail/pathway develops a connection between Tahunanui and the existing cycle/walkway from Richmond to the Airport. It opens up the considerable potential of the estuary waterfront and it primarily uses existing land formation and track infrastructure at the perimeter of the Holiday park reserve, the Nelson Golf course and a section of the Airport walking track.

The proposed trail developments capitalise on work planned for other projects on this route, cutting track-building costs and future-proofing the area's potential for projected visitor and residential use.

This development is consistent with the Nelson City Council Cycle Strategy and with any options that might be taken under the Arterial Transport Study. The project also strongly complements the focus of the Heart of Nelson Strategy, and the Council's five core goals as applied in the 2009-2019 LTCCP.

Context

Tahunanui operates as Nelson's hub for visitor accommodation, with the Council owned Tahunanui Holiday Park (the largest of its type in the Southern Hemisphere) hosting in excess of 185,000 guest nights, plus its mid size Conference/ function Centre, with the added bonus of its secure lockup facilities for cycles and Luggage. In addition there are 25 motels & lodges, and three backpackers offering a range of accommodation. The easily accessible and safe Tahunanui beach reserve is a popular destination for visitors and locals. In recognition of the area's amenity value Nelson City Council is in the process of extensive facility development behind the beach. This includes a series of joint cycling and walking pathways (the Council has allocated \$1.3M to this work in the 2009-2019 Community Plan, LTCCP).

The two current designated cycle routes heading south out of Nelson also feed into the Tahunanui environs. The inland route emerges at the Annesbrook/Tahunanui Roundabout, and the coastal route at the Tahunanui lights. The major Tasman Cycle Loop Trail will connect

with these routes at the south end of Tahunanui, and will bring with it considerable user numbers. The Ministry of Economic Development approved estimates have visitor numbers (not including local users) building to around 30,000 annually, and most of these are expected to use the more scenic Nelson-Mapua-Riwaka-Kaiteriteri coastal trail.



The Challenge

The existing reserve pathways work well to link the BMX track and Tahunanui Holiday Park with the Lion's Playground zone and the Tahunanui waterfront area. However, there is no clear and market-appropriate link from the south, for recreational and cycle tourism riders, that provides a safe and scenic connection to: the beach; the area's amenities & visitor accommodation; and the coastal route into Nelson.

The Council map above shows the existing links between the trail facilities around the airport area and Monaco/Whakatū Drive Cycle-walkway (lower left) and the pathways, developments and facilities in the Tahunanui Recreation Reserve area (upper right). Note also the under-utilised Airport Peninsula Reserve above Monaco.

The current lack of a through-route appropriate for family and recreational riders undermines the city's opportunity to capitalise on the future flow of cycle tourists into the tourism hubs of Tahunanui and the Nelson CBD. As a result it compromises the potential economic return to Nelson commercial operators.

The estuary coast from Tahunanui's back beach through to the Monaco Peninsula is an untapped regional resource. There are scenic views across the Waimea Estuary to Rabbit Island, other smaller islands and a wide range of coastal bird-life. Despite the superb views from this route and its closeness to Nelson, much of this area is relatively inaccessible at present. As a result, those visitors and locals who seek an experience of the Waimea Estuary are

currently being drawn out of Nelson to Tasman.

Images Appendix.



(Note that any on-road cycle facilities developed to link the end of the Whakatu Bypass/Stoke railway Reserve cycle routes with Rock Rd as an outcome of the Arterial Transport Study will target commuting cyclists who will continue to use the roading network.)

Assets and Advantages

Council cycle and pedestrian count data, from 2010 shows strong local demand for safe, off-road cycle/walkways. Moving to establish this critical 'missing link' in the city's network is an investment for future community growth in safe and accessible cycling and walking close to Nelson.

Developing this route — and at some point upgrading the Rocks Rd cycle ways — creates a complete Nelson Cycle Loop encompassing the Tahunanuni Beach and reserve area, the stunning estuary coast from Tahunanui beach through to and including a detour around the Monaco Peninsula, with a return to Nelson using the existing cycle way and recently sealed railway reserve. A sub-route running between the south boundary of the golf course and the airport allows for a smaller sub-loop and utilises the existing walking track.

This development also creates an accessible, varied and scenic activity for visitors who might not otherwise cycle, walk or otherwise linger in the area on their holiday, and

so retains their spending within the Nelson area. The proposed route connects with a number of cafes — the including that at the airport — local shops and the WOW centre as well as the BMX track, Holiday Park and Lion's Playground zone at Tahunanui.

Nelson City Council's approach to the estuary coast provides for work to be undertaken to protect existing community assets. The provision of a combined trail and seawall along the airport and golf course edge will protect these important community assets and will further protect the existing rock wall at the camp by removing the current cause of most of the damage (previously buried and now uncovered floating logs and stumps).

This development is an excellent vehicle for council to show good leadership in fulfilling its core goals: "people-friendly places, a strong economy, fun creative culture, healthy land, sea, air and water, and providing a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and healthy community" (2009-2019 LTCCP).

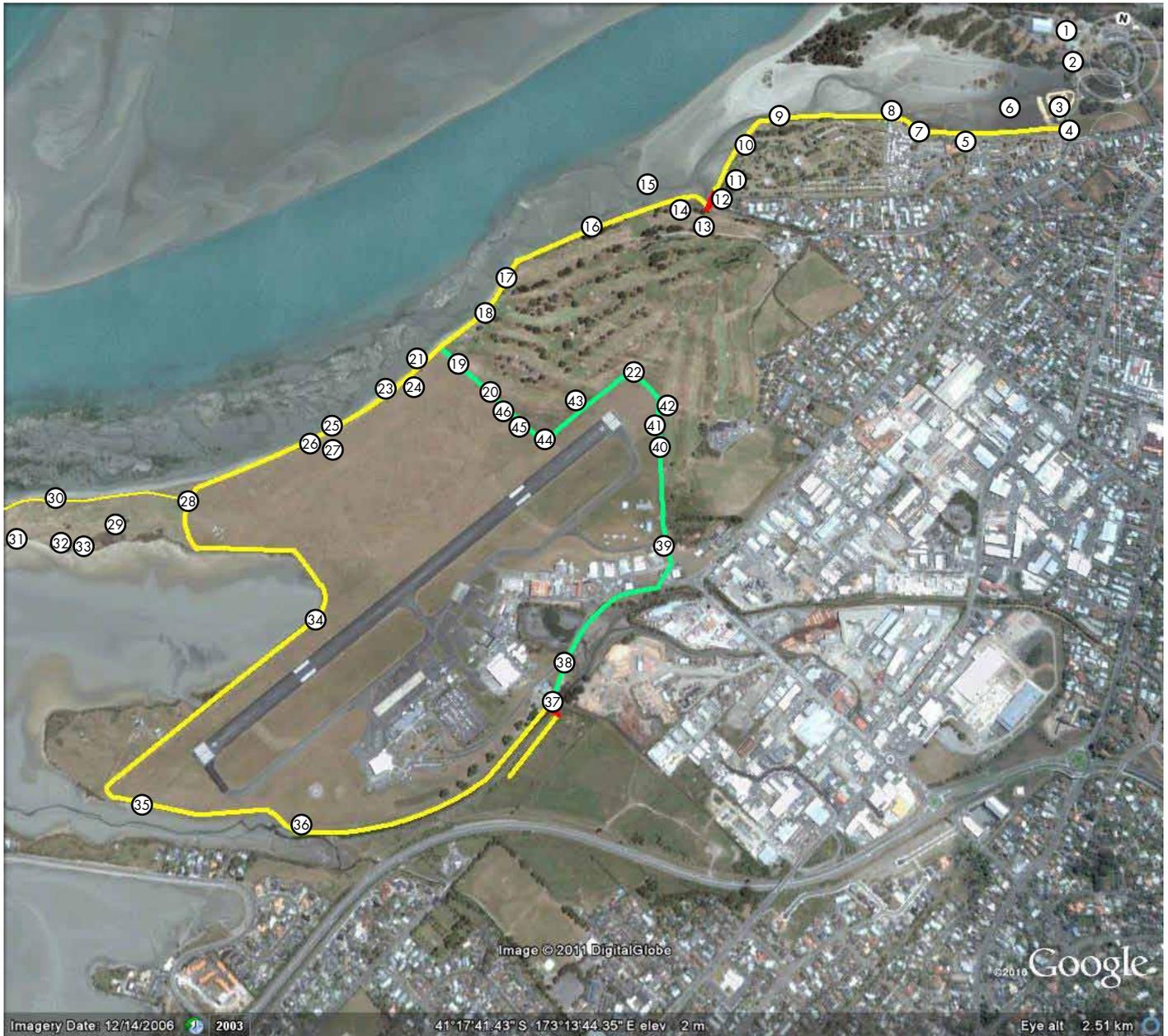
Critical timing

The Holiday Park has already completed and established part of a rock wall protection along the back beach. Along the top of this rock wall is a well-formed track (see attached images in the Route Detail section below).

The Holiday park has recently been given consent to extend the existing Rock wall between the back beach and the Holiday park. Forming the cycle track along the top of this wall will require no additional consents or land acquisitions.

This proposal is being presented now to ensure that when this work is carried out provision is made for this cycle/walk trail.

Route Detail (North to South)



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|---|---|
| 1 Train tracks Tahunanui Reserve | 25 Vista of Blind Channel Low tide |
| 2 Model's Pond Tahunanui Reserve | 26 Overlooking channel to the Richmond Ranges |
| 3 BMX track Tahunanui Reserve | 27 Existing Security fence to Airport perimeter pathway |
| 4 Start of track Tahuna Camp entrance | 28 Metal drive into Peninsular Reserve |
| 5 Tahuna Camp Back beach boundaries | 29 Track into Peninsular Reserve |
| 6 by tiny Branje Google earth | 30 Stunning Beach to Monaco channel |
| 7 Existing plantings to Tahuna Camp Back beach | 31 Waimai Estuary looking south to Saxton Island |
| 8 Permanents boundary, proposed new rock-wall | 32 Monaco town-ship |
| 9 Seas have breached sand hills causing Major erosion | 33 Estuary back beach to Peninsular Reserve |
| 10 Existing rock retaining wall, with grass track | 34 Sealed drive alongside south end of Airport |
| 11 By david951 Feb 09 Google earth | 35 Sealed perimeter pathway beside Monaco estuary |
| 12 Location of proposed bridge to Parkers Stream | 36 Existing Security Gates to perimeter pathway |
| 13 King tide water level Parkers Cove, Golf coarse side | 37 Trent Bridge where proposed trail joins existing |
| 14 Edge of Golf club fairway | 38 Existing cycle/walkway to Quarantine Road |
| 15 Erosion to Golf coarse Fairway | 39 Horizontal fence section to main runway North end |
| 16 Floating tree stumps that float & damage Rock-wall | 40 Security fence Ch-Ch Airport |
| 17 Over-looking the Blind Channel to Rabbit Island | 41 Vertical to Horizontal section Ch-Ch Airport |
| 18 Looking south to Peninsular Reserve | 42 Horizontal section end of runway Ch-Ch Airport |
| 19 Golf club Channel frontage looking north | 43 Westside of runway boundary and golf course |
| 20 Blind Channel end of existing north-walking track | 44 North boundary airport and golf course |
| 21 By Colin Southern Google earth | 45 North boundary of grass runway and golf course |
| 22 By Colin Southern Google earth | 46 Junction of Perimeter & North end walkways |
| 23 Existing grass Airport perimeter pathway looking north | |
| 24 North end of grass runway | |



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