

# Equestrian access on O2NL

Yahoo/Inbox

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To: ^Shelly Warwick

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Hello Shelly,

As you are aware, the KCDC supported the inclusion of bridleway access beside the mainline of the Kapiti M2PP expressway beside the 3m wide shared path wherever possible and Council has continued this stance with design and construction of the PP20 expressway's shared path. To address the severance the presence of the expressway inflicted on existing user groups (including popular equestrian routes) the NZTA constructed possibly the first equestrian controlled traffic lights in New Zealand on Te Moana Road in Waikanae. It's probably fair to say that north of Waikanae in rural Peka Peka, Te Horo and Otaki, horse ownership and regular riding along our northern rural roads occurs more frequently than in the urban areas of Waikanae, Pararapaumu and Raumati.

We are aware that the economic value of equestrian activity on the Kapiti Coast may run into the multimillions. The Council is very interested in supporting economic growth, particularly by increasing visitors numbers to the coasts many attractions and this includes attracting equestrian interest and activity. To support the greater number of equestrians in our rural north, the NZTA have included equestrian crossing facilities at Mary Crest and at the adjacent rail crossing over the NIMTL.

Given that O2NL is a rural expressway the KCDC supports the inclusion of equestrian access beside a shared path within the O2NL designation. It is highly likely that a shared path beside O2NL will have a higher proportion of week day horse riders than other user groups (walkers & cyclists) due to its proximity to rural and lifestyle blocks so it would be nonsensical to exclude equestrians from a proposed shared path.

We have found in practice that a wide shared walkway and cycleway at least 3m wide can be comfortably used by cyclists walkers and horse riders provided sight lines are good and users are courteous to each other. By far and away the most complaints we receive around poor user behaviour are around middle aged males cycling too fast along shared paths and not acknowledging their presence to other users. The second most complained about group tend to be unregistered trail bikes, typically around school holiday periods or after 3pm on fine days. Complains about equestrians are so infrequent as to be statistically insignificant.

Kind regards

**Stuart Kilmister**

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