

Public Policy in NZ

The Ugly, the Bad, the Very Good



Will Andrews. VéloCity Global. 2016- Feb 27th. TICC, Taipei

The Ugly

The New Zealand Context

Dispersed settlement patterns;

Low-density urban forms;

Car-dependent society.

The Ugly

The New Zealand Context

High car dependence; high motor ownership rates;

Low public transport usage;

1 of 2 countries worldwide requiring bicycle helmets -vigorous enforcement by Police.

The Bad

Current Administration

Conservative government since 2008-

- ‘Getting There’ active-transport policy (2005/ 2009) shelved;
- Motorway construction policy ‘Roads of National Significance’;
- Minister for Environment says- ‘question is how to get cyclists to pay for... facilities’.

The Bad

Cycling Casualties

13 cycling deaths in 2010;

Coroner's report on three of these- 'Mandatory hi-visibility clothing';

But, further Coroner recommendation- NZTA to establish High Level Safety Panel on Cycling (recommendation in CAN submission).

The Good

Since Coroner's recommendation

High-level Cycling Safety Panel convened 2013;

Report issued late 2014-

- Measures match up-to-date overseas thinking-
- Streamline decision-making;
- Better facilities & infrastructure;
- Heavy Vehicle measures; .../

The Good

Cycle Safety Report

- .../
- Safer routes to School;
- Improve road user attitudes and behaviours;
- 1.5m overtaking clearance;
- Under-run protection for heavy vehicle trailers.

The Very Good

Urban Cycleway Programme

Election promise, 2014

\$100m fund, but also-

- Matching \$100 from existing Land Transport Fund
- Matching \$100 available from local road authorities funds
- Total over \$330m

The Very Good

Action Now Ongoing

- Review of Road Rules;
- Construction of Urban Cycleway Programme;
- Strong Cycling Team within NZTA;
- Behaviour Change work proposed within NZTA;
- 1.5m overtaking clearance.

The Future

- Challenge of Bikelash to Urban Cycleway Programme;
- NZTA is transport only; no high-level National strategy involving health & environment policies;
- Behaviour Change programme not yet confirmed within NZTA;
- 1.5m overtaking clearance and truck under-run protection shelved until future years.