

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members Engineering Services
FROM: Development Engineer, Dugald Ley
FILE REF: R858-1
SUBJECT: **Tasman Cycle Trail Update – RESC10-08-12**
Report prepared for meeting of 19 August 2010

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee on progress with the stage 1 construction of the Tasman cycle rail trail. These reports will be provided to the committee on a regular basis.

2 BACKGROUND

Councillors will be aware of the report (RCN10-07-04) presented to Council on 22 July 2010 and the subsequent resolutions which were passed. In summary:

- Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the trust is prepared.
- Tasman District Council is the financial controller of the Ministry of Tourism district grant of \$2,630,000.
- The Engineering Department was given authority to oversee the stage 1 construction programme.

Over the last week Nelson City Council has also passed resolutions of a similar nature where they have requested a Memorandum of Understanding be completed and agreed that Tasman District Council should be the financial controller of the district grant, viz:

THAT development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Nelson Cycle Trails Trust be approved in principle;

AND THAT a Memorandum of Understanding be negotiated and drafted with the Nelson Cycle Trails Trust for approval in the next Council term;

AND THAT Nelson City Council approve the Tasman District Council being the primary funding recipient for the Dun Mountain and Tasman Loop Cycle trails;

AND THAT any costs incurred by Nelson City Council in the development of extension of the Dun Mountain Cycle trail be recovered through Tasman District Council.

The Cycle Trail Trust was required by the Ministry of Tourism to complete aspects of the feasibility study and this was submitted to them on 23 July 2010.

The Trust has also been requested to draft a “funding agreement” with Tasman District Council and the Ministry. The Ministry has also asked the Trust (on behalf of Tasman District Council) to:

- Arrange a Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed between the Council and the Trust;
- Confirm all land access issues are resolved.
- Prepare the implementation plan containing (main points):
 - Project construction schedule;
 - Contracting and procurement plan;
 - Management/governance plan/structure;
 - Funding/cashflow plan;
 - Risk/Cost benefit plan.

The funding agreement has been submitted to Council for review and it will be signed at a public event with representatives from the two councils and the Ministry on 20 August 2010.

The above items are required to be completed by the Trust before 30 September 2010. Note – Tasman District Council cannot source the \$2,141,000 funding (Tasman District Council share) until the above has been received and approved by the Ministry.

I have asked the Cycle Trails Trust to nominate a “Project Manager” for the construction works and clearly Council staff will work with that person in the stage 1 construction phase.

CONSULTATION

The Trust and Council staff have held various meetings with stakeholders including:

New Zealand Transport Agency – very receptive to the trail project and verbally agreed to access along designated land, ie the old Railway Reserve, Lower Queen Street to Ranzau Road. We will investigate working together with the agency where benefits can be made in removing cycle traffic off the state highway network.

We are working with the **Community Services Department** to complete the existing trail along the coast; they will have completed the section from the ASB Aquatic Centre to Headingly Lane within the next six months (Headingly Lane to Beach Road section currently being completed).

Department of Conservation – Have granted full use of their bridge/boardwalk designs and fully support the projects with offers to lend their expertise.

Resource Consents – Initial discussions with Council staff regarding work close to the coast and river crossings have been positive.

NEXT STEPS

The Trust continues to work on achieving the goals outlined by the Ministry with a view to having construction works starting in October 2010 for areas where there are no outstanding

issues. The next report to this committee in September will outline the impending construction phase.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Nelson Cycle Trail update report (RESC10-08-12) be received by the Engineering Services Committee.

Dugald Ley
Development Engineer