



Auckland Regional Transport Authority

Bike Buddies – A Safe Way to Increase Cycling in School

Thanks to Arthur Orsini

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Overview

- Bike Buddy Concept
- Engagement
- Resources
- Key Points
- How to Use the Booklet
- Questions

Bike Buddy Concept

- 1. Some students already cycle to school – hand booklet to these students and they choose a friend they want to cycle to school with**
- 2. Research shows that kids who cycle want their friends to cycle with them.**
- 3. Some parents let kids cycle and some don't**
- 4. This booklet is meant to dismantle the barriers that are preventing their friends from cycling e.g. no bike, bike not in good order, or parents wont let kids bike**
- 5. How do we build parents comfort level to allow kids to cycle?**
 - RoadSense Smarts – give good information**
 - Safe Bike – ownership**
 - Clever & safe travel route – participation**

RoadSense Smarts

- **Child's maturity – up to parents to decide if their child is mature enough to cycle to school**
- **Not for schools where no-one is cycling**
- **RoadSense Smarts – contact Police or Bike Mechanic who knows about safe cycling: road rules, helmet fitting, cycling skills, visibility**

Safe Bike

- **Safe Bike – Inspection (not a tune-up) at local bike shop, or Mechanic comes to school**
 - **Free – give bike shop exposure.**
 - **Optional workshops for bike maintenance.**
 - **Time it with shops slow season.**

Clever Travel Route

- **Trust the parent to choose the route**
- **Map route**
- **Parent check route with student during the day**
- **Show Council the routes to identify areas for improvement**
- **Log cycle trips together**

Engagement

- **Approach Principal, then Police, Bike Shop, RSC & parents**
- **Have a meeting with cycling students re “Help your friends who aren’t allowed to cycle to be able to cycle”**
- **Start a group/club – grow identity**
- **Run a fun school event e.g. Slow Bike Race, Bike Day**
- **Ask principal “If we increase cycling as a result of this are you prepared to improve the infrastructure e.g. bike racks”**

Resources & Tasks

- **Set-up takes most of the time = one month**
- **Meetings with Principal, Police, Bike Shop, students**
- **Develop booklet, mapping exercise, appoint student leaders**
- **Social side is a huge motivator**
- **Youth development approach – treat students like colleagues**

Key points

Kids who cycle want their friends to cycle with them

Takes responsibility for encouraging non-cyclists to cycle away from the school and places it with parents, police, bike shop etc

Increases the level of safety/independence/mobility for kids

Secondary schools don't need as much parental permission as Intermediates.