

Cycling is a quality alternative transport mode - cheap, effective and an excellent form of exercise. In Wellington the topography does offer challenges but many trips through the city are not greatly hampered by changing levels. Trips from the hills to the city only offer a challenge on the way back, where public transport could offer the possibility of carrying bikes back up-hill.

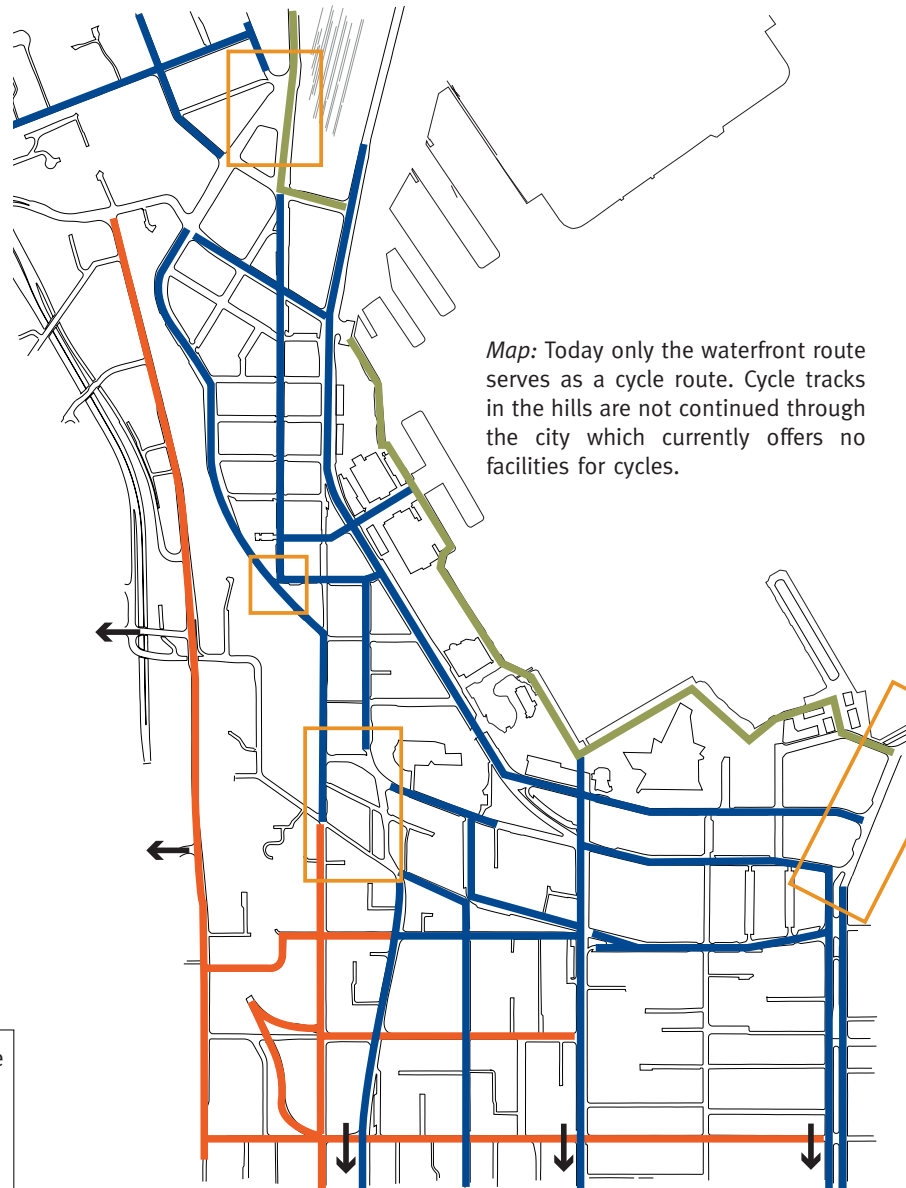
Wellington is a city without a cycle network - the only cycle lanes are found on Oriental Parade and Thorndon Quay - and no connections have been made to suburban cycle routes. Cycling is a risky experience trying to make way through a traffic dominated city with little room for, and awareness of bikes. Only a few skilled, agile and devoted cyclists dare to take up the challenge to cycle on the streets. Cyclists find themselves in unclear, undefined zones and tend to ride aggressively in order to be noticed by motorists. This behaviour often causes dangerous situations, as well as conflicts with pedestrians.

Summary

Initiatives need to be taken to invite people to cycle and more needs to be done in order to create a safe network for cyclists. Dedicated cycle lanes constructed and sited with safety in mind, special measures at crossings, colours on cycle lanes and information are all means which could create a greater awareness to motorists and a higher number of cyclists.

Experience from overseas shows that the secret to making cycling popular and reasonably safe is to have a sufficient number of cyclists - a critical mass. Experience in other cities shows that motorists only learn to watch out for cyclists when cycling becomes part of a general traffic culture.

- Existing vehicle roads, with potential cycle lane space
- Narrow and busy streets unfit for cyclists
- Existing cycle route with pedestrians and other users
- ➔ To areas for cycling or mountain biking
- Cyclist confusion areas



Map: Today only the waterfront route serves as a cycle route. Cycle tracks in the hills are not continued through the city which currently offers no facilities for cycles.

Quality of cycle routes



Cyclists ride on the same terms as vehicular traffic



or in conflict with pedestrians



Dedicated bus lanes are used as cycle lanes