



62 Moenui Road, RD 1, Picton

10 May 2021

## **Introduction**

The Link Pathway is a community initiated project to construct, maintain, and manage a high quality 42 kilometre walking / cycling pathway on public land linking the communities between Havelock and Picton and including Anakiwa and the Queen Charlotte Track. The western half of the pathway is included in the Te Araroa Trail.

The project is overseen by the Link Pathway Trust, a charitable trust consisting of representatives from stakeholder groups such as Marlborough District Council, Department of Conservation, Port Marlborough, Outward Bound, and various community groups.

The project started in 2005, with the majority of construction occurring in the last eight years. Construction of the pathway will be completed later this year. Currently an estimated 35,000 people are using parts of the Link Pathway per annum.

The pathway has been created with a budget of \$1.56 million, of which \$712,000 was provided by the Marlborough District Council. *The Link Pathway Trust is extremely grateful to MDC for this support.*

Early estimates by MDC, DOC, and a report commissioned for presentation to the National Cycleways project, all anticipated a cost of between \$2.8 and \$3.3 million to create the pathway. That LP Trust have been able to do it for \$1.56 million is a reflection of the tremendous community support the project enjoys, with many tens of thousands of dollars of goods and materials either donated or significantly discounted, and over 43,000 hours of volunteer labour.

In the National Cycleways report, commissioned in 2009, it was stated that the benefit to the region in financial terms would be \$8.74 million per annum. This figure was undoubtedly conservative at the time, and has increased significantly since. Add to that the social, heritage, environmental, tourism, recreational, safety, health &

well-being benefits the pathway offers, and it represents a very good return to the council for the \$712,000 investment.

### Submission

When the final 2 kilometres of pathway are built later this year, the construction phase overseen by the Link Pathway Trust will be complete. However, as indicated in previous submissions to MDC, there are several “gaps” in the pathway route that are outside of the LP Trusts frame of reference, (and indeed ability) to build. These are mainly road bridges that require clip-ons (or similar) that will need input and oversight from Marlborough Roads.

The purpose of this submission is to firstly acknowledge and thank MDC for its tremendous support of the Link Pathway project, and also to identify and highlight these remaining “gaps”.

Addressing these “gaps” is now urgent:

- A significant and increasing number of pathway users, both walkers / runners and cyclists are now forced to use the edge of the road (Queen Charlotte Drive) for short sections.
- The road's vehicle traffic is increasing with residential development / lifestyle choices, forestry, and speed restrictions on the road between Havelock and Blenheim bringing more ferry traffic along the Queen Charlotte Drive, all contributing.
- Several of these sections are in areas where the road speed limit is 90 km.

These sections are (from west to east):

(Cost estimates determined by MDC (2019) rough order except \*)

#### **Kaituna River Bridge clip-on \$240,000**

This road bridge is on the Havelock Causeway at the start of the Queen Charlotte Drive. It is a double-lane bridge in a 70 km speed zone. As well as traffic continuing along the Queen Charlotte Drive, it also has vehicles travelling to and from the Havelock Transfer Station. Pedestrians and cyclists are using the edge of the carriageway to cross the Kaituna River. As well as Link Pathway users going through to Anakiwa or Picton, there are many local people using the first section of pathway between Havelock and the Mahakipawa Hill for regular exercise and to walk their dogs. The recently completed boardwalks across the Kaituna Estuary have contributed to the number of pedestrians and cyclists using the Kaituna Road Bridge edge.

#### **Weadon Stream Bridge clip-on \$50,000**

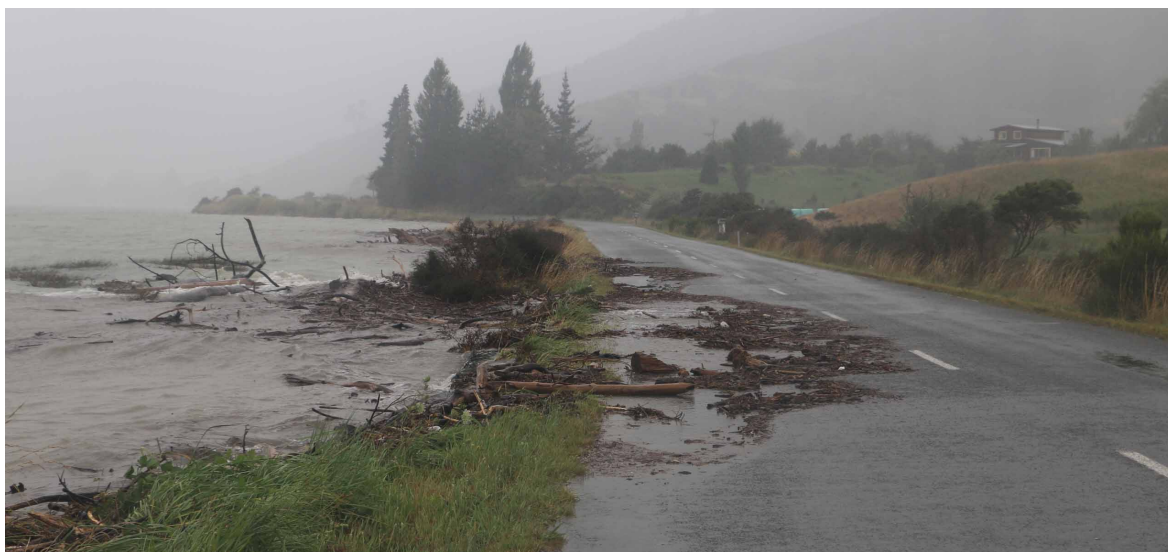
A small double-lane road bridge on the Queen Charlotte Drive 10 k's east of Havelock. Link Pathway users are currently sharing the carriageway with vehicles in a 90 km speed zone.

**Mahakipawa Causeway shoulder widening \$500,000\*** (MDC estimate is double this but we question it will cost 1 million).

A 800 metre section of road (Queen Charlotte Drive) along the edge of Mahakipawa Arm with a very narrow shoulder between the carriageway and the sea in a 90 km speed zone. As well as a current significant risk to pathway users sharing the carriageway edge with vehicles, there is on-going deterioration to the road edge with the sea eroding the shoulder bank. In one place there is only a 300 mm gap between the carriageway and a 1.5 metre drop to the foreshore below. Elsewhere, in high king tides, the sea inundates the road in places. This entire section requires significant remedial work to the road shoulder.



**Photo: Narrow (300 mm) road shoulder due to tidal erosion on the Mahakipawa Causeway**



**Photo: Road inundated during high tides on section of Mahakipawa Causeway**



### **Cullen Creek Bridge clip-on \$120,000**

A single-lane bridge on the Queen Charlotte Drive at Linkwater in a 90 km speed zone, where pathway users currently share the carriageway with vehicles. Local residents have routinely complained about how dangerous this bridge is, with several accidents reported.



Photo: Cullen Creek one-lane bridge

### **Linkwater Stream and Cattle Underpass footbridge \$60,000\*** (newly identified, and costs based on supplied bridge clip-on estimates)

Pathway users are forced along the edge of the road in a 90 km speed zone for a short section on the Linkwater Straight.

### **The Grove Stream Bridge clip-on \$80,000**

A small double-lane road bridge on the Queen Charlotte Drive near The Grove. Link Pathway users are currently sharing the carriageway with vehicles in a 90 km speed zone.

### **The Grove footpath \$198,000**

Currently pathway users are walking / cycling within the margins of a painted white line on the edge of the carriageway for 900 metres in a 50 km zone through The Grove. Curb, channelling, and rails are required to make this safer.



Photo: White line demarcating pathway through The Grove

### **Anakiwa Stream Bridge clip-on \$35,000 and Tirimoana Stream Bridge clip-on \$25,000**

Two small double-lane road bridges on the Anakiwa Road in a 50 km speed zone. Link Pathway users are currently sharing the carriageway with vehicles.

### **Road Crossings x 6 \$13,500**

In a number of places the Link Pathway crosses the road, and road signs and markings are required.

**Total: \$1,321,500**

## **Conclusion**

With the Link Pathway almost complete, the construction phase of the Trust's work is nearing an end. However, there are several short sections where the pathway runs along the edge of the road that need addressing, and these require Marlborough Roads to initiate and oversee.

With greater volumes of traffic travelling at speed, and greater numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using the pathway, these sections of road edge pose a considerable safety issue that need urgent attention.