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NAME	Submission to Wellington City Council's Draft Cycling Framework
PREPARED FOR	Wellington City Council
PREPARED BY	VUWSA Executive
DATE	29/05/2015

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Wellington City Council's Draft Cycleway Framework.

1.2 VUWSA is the oldest students' association in New Zealand and functions to represent and advocate for the interests of Victoria University of Wellington's 22, 000 students.

1.3 VUWSA acknowledges that the students of Wellington's largest university directly contribute at least \$610 million to the City's economy and rating base annually. Students are also an invaluable part of the Wellington community and contribute strongly to Wellington's vibrant and dynamic culture.

1.4 VUWSA acknowledges that Wellington as a city is a primary reason that prospective students choose to study at Victoria, and that students value the city very highly.

1.5 VUWSA notes the importance of the consideration of students' needs in the Cycleway Framework. As a young population, students are more inclined to use active transport than many other groups in Wellington. By building a cycle network that works for students, Wellington can grasp low hanging fruit and access the road congestion and public health benefits that come with active transport.

## **2. Why We Support Cycleways**

2.1 VUWSA commends WCC for indicating a clear commitment to improving Wellington's transport network by producing a framework for a city-wide cycle framework. As our current transport model which prioritises private vehicles increasingly shows itself to be unfit for a 21<sup>st</sup> century city, and as we move toward an inevitable carbon-zero future, the development of infrastructure that brings active transport to centre stage in urban areas is essential.

2.2 VUWSA shares WCC's view that cycling is one of the key modes of active transport that must be made available to Wellingtonians in order to solve transport problems, and that developing effective cycle infrastructure is essential in order to achieve this.

2.3 We agree with WCC that on top of the congestion and emissions reduction benefits that cycleways provide, they also come with extensive co-benefits to the economy, the public health system, and the vibrancy of the city.



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### 3. Why Cycling Works for Students

3.1 VUWSA notes that a transport system which prioritises private vehicles is not compatible for students. Using a car to travel from home to University in the inner city is not practical due to slowness and lack of parking space. The cost of running a vehicle is also out of reach for most students. Walking and busing are popular modes of transport for students, however many would like to cycle due to the time and fitness benefits but feel unsafe on Wellington's roads.

3.2 VUWSA supports the development of cycleways that make it safe for students who want to ride, and agrees with the Councils research which shows there is huge latent demand for cycling in the capital.

### 4. Cycleway Network Plan: Kelburn Route

4.1 VUWSA notes the particular importance to students of the *Kelburn* route as identified in Appendix A. The student population is concentrated in the inner-city, and this route will provide a key link between the city and Victoria's largest campus.

### 5. Contact

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss submission in more detail in person. Please contact us in the event further clarification of this submission is needed, or to arrange for VUWSA to make an oral submission.

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