



THE AUCKLAND CYCLING ACCOUNT

A SNAPSHOT OF CYCLING IN AUCKLAND 2017



THE 2017 AUCKLAND CYCLING ACCOUNT

Auckland is growing, and quickly. Our city's population grew to 1.66 million in the year ended June 2017. That's an additional 42,700 people calling Auckland home in a single year.

This brings a lot of diversity and vibrancy to Auckland, but it also places pressure on our city's roads and infrastructure. We face a big challenge in how to facilitate easy and convenient movement around the city.

With our roads becoming increasingly congested, Auckland Transport is promoting cycling as an alternative mode of transport.

The great news is that Aucklanders are getting on board. With the continued development of Auckland's network of cycling pathways and various community initiatives, Aucklanders have been cycling in record numbers.

Now in our third year of producing the Auckland Cycling Account, we will share the story of cycling in Auckland over the past year and where we're headed to from here.

For a more in-depth look at the statistics reported here, please see our reference list at [AT.govt.nz/cyclingreports](https://at.govt.nz/cyclingreports).

Funding partners:



CELEBRATING 2017

2017 was another successful year for cycling in Auckland. We are continuing to see the network effect of connecting our cycleways, with new shared paths giving Aucklanders real transport choice and healthy ways to get around the city.

We have entered the third year of our Urban Cycleway Funded programme with our partners NZTA and Auckland Council. This year there has been significant focus on improving designs to meet the needs of local communities, and in the coming year we will be delivering more projects to steadily join up the Auckland Cycle Network.

We celebrated some big achievements in 2017, most notably the opening of the Waterview Path. This wonderful path through several parks has connected communities and given families a safe place to explore, as well as linking the Southwestern Path to the Northwestern Path. It is a significant piece of infrastructure that has filled a gap in our network, and already local communities are seeing the benefits.

The Te Ara Mura Future Streets project in Māngere won the supreme award at the 2017 Bike to the Future Awards, showing how collaboration with the community delivers excellent outcomes for people and neighbourhoods.

Enabling children to ride safely to school was a growing focus in 2017, as we opened the 28th Bikes in Schools project in Auckland. We provided cycle training to over 13,000 children and started to build new routes through Northcote and Grey Lynn, which will make it safer for children to ride to school.

As we continue to deliver streets for people in 2018, we will see more people enjoying the benefits of travelling by bicycle. We are seeing more families, children and women on bikes and we are recording more and more trips on our cycle counters around the city centre and fringe.

We are looking forward to more safe connections being completed this year. I hope you will join me and the thousands of other Aucklanders on two wheels to experience our city by bike in 2018.



Kathryn King
Manager Walking, Cycling and Road Safety
Auckland Transport



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Southwestern Path

01

**WE'VE BEEN
CONTINUING TO
DEVELOP AUCKLAND'S
CYCLING NETWORK**





WATERVIEW PATH

The Waterview Path and an extension of the Southwestern Path opened in 2017, a few months after the motorway tunnels beneath them were completed.

Together the paths are 4.1km, connecting the Northwestern Path to the Maioro St section of the pre-existing Southwestern Path.

The paths have been a hit with both people on bikes and walkers, with an average of **352 trips per day** recorded along the new path in 2017.

This missing link means it is now possible to cycle from Mangere Bridge to St Heliers via the city centre without having to negotiate busy roads. This is a distance of almost 30km!

MANGERE BRIDGE

ST HELIERS

CITY CENTRE



A COLOURFUL NEW ADDITION

Transforming an uninspiring 500m section of the Northwestern Path, the new Rainbow Path runs alongside Unitec's Mt Albert campus. Designed to make the section of path more exciting to use, it's already proving a big hit with the community.

KATE'S WATERVIEW COMMUTE

I loved riding my bike as a kid and even today, when I'm out on my bike it makes me smile. Even though I'm 40, I go over the bumps and stand up on the pedals and it makes me feel like a kid again.

Having fun and feeling connected to my city is a bonus but it's not the reason I ride. As a mum of two small kids, this is my daily exercise and I literally think it's what will keep me alive, at least a whole lot longer.

A few years back, I read a study published in the British Medical Journal showing a 45% decrease in heart disease and cancer in people commuting by bike. It was a real kicker for me to see that. I love the hills, they build my muscle, keep me healthy and help me burn off stress!

I live in Waterview and feel hugely fortunate to be close to the fantastic Waterview Path. Every weekday, I ride from Alford Street with my two-year-old daughter Sophie on the back of my bike. I drop her off at day care and make my way into TVNZ on the fully off-road path. My husband Pete leaves at the same time and rides with our daughter Zoe to Waterview Primary School. At this stage she can't ride alone as she needs to cross a busy road with no crossing, but as we make riding part of our family life, she's building her skills and one day she could ride alone.

My journey takes me 35 minutes on the way there and only half an hour on the way back – quicker than I could do it in the car and of course much cheaper as I'm not paying for petrol and parking. If it's raining we wear raincoats and if it's torrential, which is pretty rare, we take the car.



We also ride as a family on the weekend and I often do grocery shopping on the way to or from somewhere. I either use the baby seat on the back if Sophie isn't in it, or I put a backpack on my front and that does the job.

I think Auckland's transport culture is changing. The more people who know someone who bikes for a transport trip, the more it becomes normal and achievable. Traffic all over Auckland, including on the weekend, is getting worse and it's pretty soul destroying to sit in. It's also about safe places for people to ride and making sure that what is built for people on bikes links up and goes to the places that people want to get to.

I've got a lot of slightly envious friends who wish they had something like the fantastic Waterview Path – it really has changed my life!

// As a mum of two small kids, this is my daily exercise.



BIKE CRASHES

Sadly, 2017 saw a spike in deaths and serious injuries involving people on bikes. This is a concern and highlights the need for us to continue to invest in infrastructure.

	2016	2017
Minor	155	175
Serious	41	51
Fatal	0	1
TOTAL	196	227

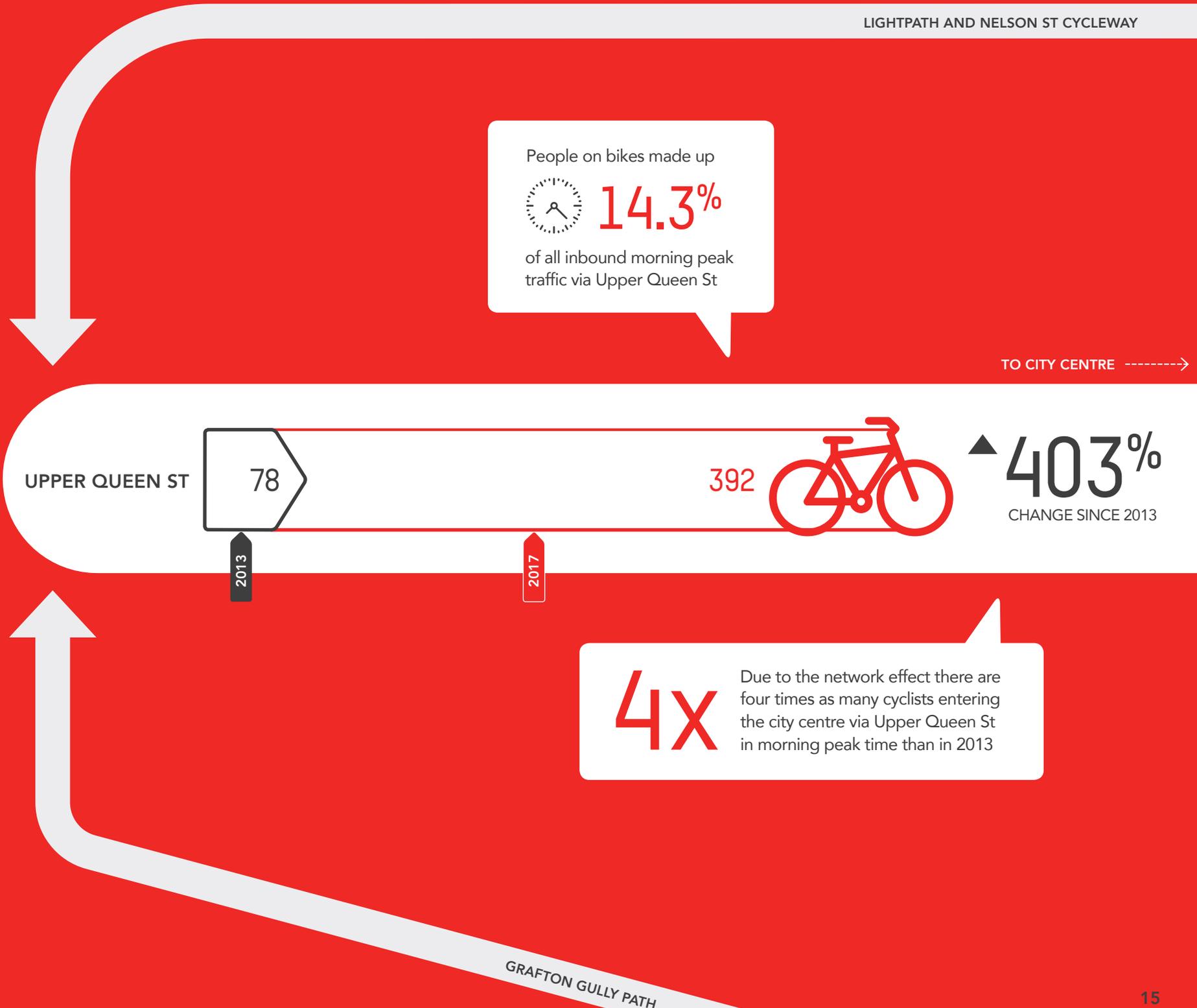
NORTHWESTERN PATH

THE NETWORK EFFECT

2017's new openings continue to establish Auckland's network of interconnected paths and cycleways.

Dedicated cycle paths create a quicker, easier and safer ride in and out of the city centre.

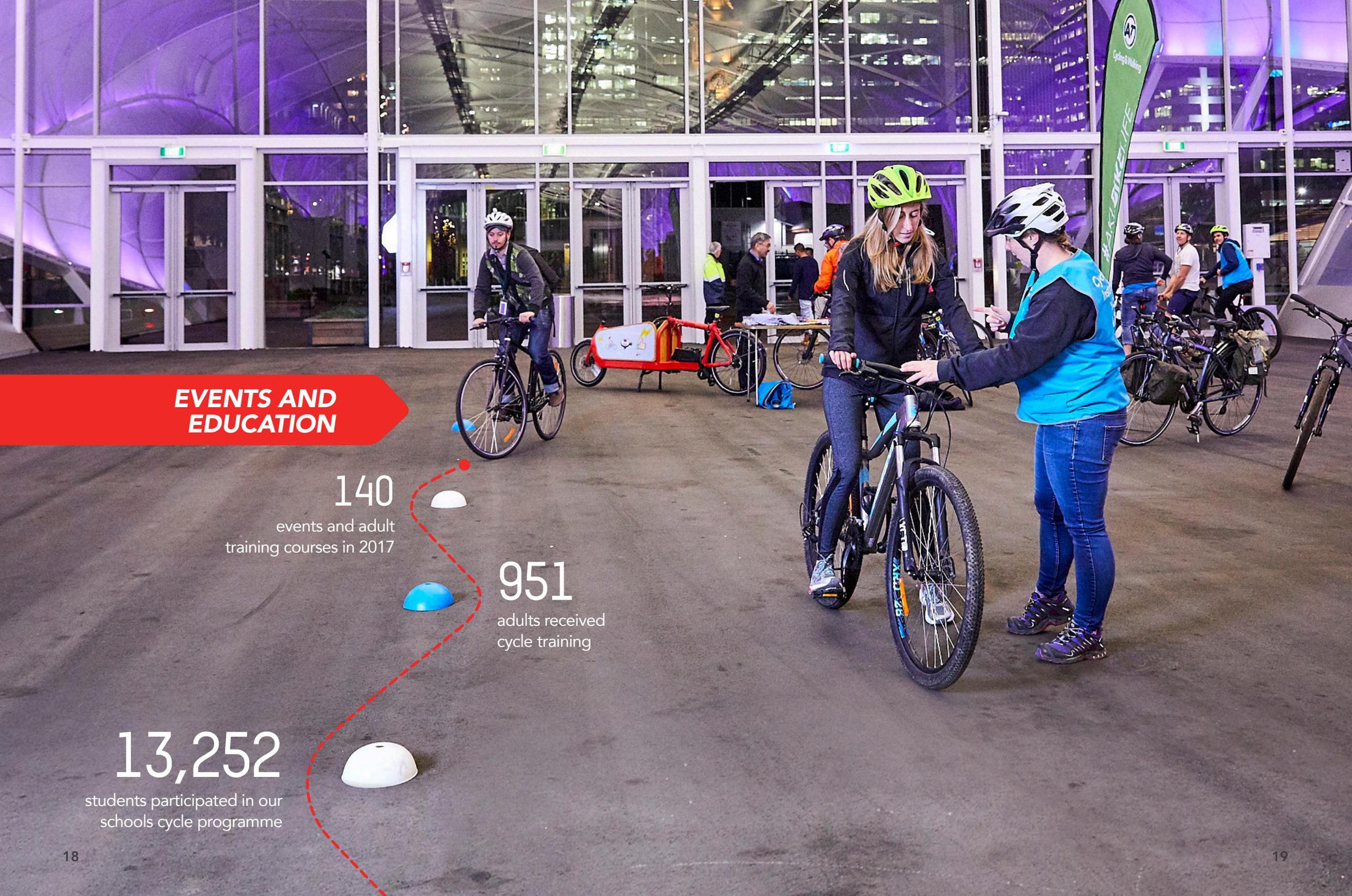
As the network continues to grow cycling becomes a more convenient option for those commuting into the city centre – we call this the network effect.





02

**AUCKLANDERS ARE
GETTING INVOLVED
IN INITIATIVES AND
EVENTS**



EVENTS AND EDUCATION

140

events and adult training courses in 2017

951

adults received cycle training

13,252

students participated in our schools cycle programme

Bikes in Schools

28 

Auckland schools with Bikes in Schools (10 more than in 2016)

194 

teachers receiving cycle training through the programme

11,500 

children at schools with Bikes in Schools (up from 6,743 in 2016)

MORE CHILDREN CYCLING TO SCHOOL

In the past year we've seen an increase in the percentage of children cycling to school. While this is a slight increase it signals a positive change, particularly among intermediate-age children who are old enough to ride to school on their own without parent supervision.

PRIMARY

INTERMEDIATE

SECONDARY

1.5% cycling 2016
1.6% cycling 2017



3.9% cycling 2016
4.4% cycling 2017



2.1% cycling 2016
2.3% cycling 2017



The Bike On NZ Charitable Trust developed the Bikes in Schools programme to help as many kiwi kids as possible to ride a bike on a regular and equal basis at school.

The Bikes in Schools package includes riding tracks, bikes and storage within the school grounds, as well as cycle skills education for students and teachers.

The programme is growing quickly in Auckland.

LIFE IN THE BIKE LANE



ROYAL ROAD SCHOOL in Massey opened its Bikes in Schools track in March 2016.

Over 300 students use the track regularly, with teachers seeing improvements in fitness, classroom behaviour and the wider community enjoying the track.

School principal Wayne Leighton says the Bikes in Schools project is an important asset for the school and its community.

Children can come and learn to ride in a safe environment away from traffic and as they increase confidence on their bike they can have a go at our skills features and the pump track. Our school borders the north-western motorway and we are really looking forward to the extension to the cycle path being finished. We plan to take students to MOTAT, the zoo and other central Auckland facilities by bike along the cycle path when it's finished. It will save the school hundreds of dollars in bus hire and make the whole exercise a fantastic adventure.

AUCKLAND BIKE CHALLENGE

 **324**
participating businesses
and organisations

3,784
individual participants 

42,055 
cycling trips recorded

981
new riders

 **47%**

of new riders rode
at least once a
week, three months
post-challenge



The Auckland Bike Challenge is designed to encourage more Aucklanders to cycle, more often.

In February, Auckland businesses compete against each other to see who can get the most staff to ride a bike. It's not about who can ride the most kilometres, but about encouraging Aucklanders to give cycling a try.

In 2017, the challenge was bigger and better than ever, with almost twice as many organisations participating as previous years.

To find out more about becoming a cycle friendly workplace head to AT.govt.nz/choices.

LIFE IN THE BIKE LANE



WHEREscape enters the Auckland Bike Challenge every year to promote a cycling culture in the workplace that benefits its staff, society and the environment.

WhereScape came first in the 50-199 staff size category in the 2017 challenge.

Over half of WhereScape employees participated, cycling a total of 5,179kms during the month of February.

“ The bike challenge was a great way to bring up a whole lot of cycling discussion about the workplace and get a few more people on their bikes.

“ This challenge actually motivated me to buy a bike and take part – I have since found that I really enjoy cycling as a recreational activity at the weekend and hopefully it will improve my fitness.



Westhaven Promenade

03

**MORE
AUCKLANDERS
ARE CYCLING
MORE OFTEN**

ON THE GO

WHO'S RIDING?



35%

of all Aucklanders are now cycling in 2017

45,600

new riders in 2017

♀ 43%

of riders are female, compared to 37% in 2015

41%

of cycle journeys in Auckland are point-to-point trips



WORK



STUDY



SHOPPING

WHY AUCKLANDERS CYCLE

78% of Auckland bike riders choose to cycle because it provides exercise and helps to keep them fit

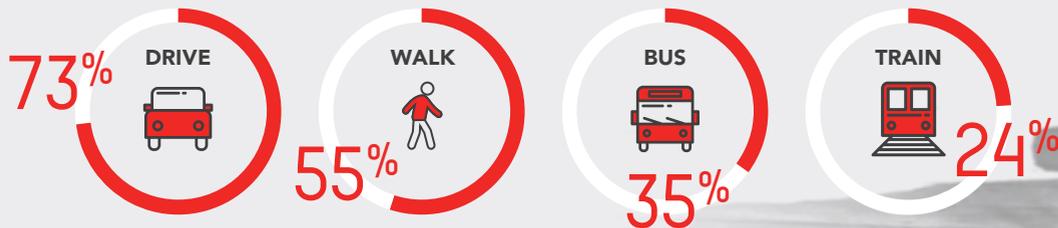


70% of Auckland bike riders choose to cycle because it is enjoyable and fun



AUCKLAND BIKE RIDERS ARE MULTI-MODAL...

...meaning they use more than one mode of transport regularly.



AUCKLANDERS ATTITUDES TO CYCLING ARE CHANGING

of Aucklanders are positive about the state of cycling

45%

▲ UP FROM 39% IN 2016

of Aucklanders feel confident about cycling

32%

▲ UP FROM 28% IN 2016



Did you know that mid-winter 2017 saw more cycling trips on the Northwestern Path than mid-summer 2015? That shows the growth in cycling numbers in just two years!

A 5% increase in cycling and walking for trips of 2km or less in Auckland would bring health benefits of

\$225m

million per year.

AUCKLAND

The average Auckland bike rider travels

391 km

per year which is roughly equivalent to cycling from Auckland to Tauranga and back again!

TAURANGA



Northwestern Path

INGRID'S GRAFTON COMMUTE

Engineer Ingrid regularly rides her road bike along Grafton Gully from Kingsland, and loves Auckland's growing bike network.

Why do you choose to ride a bike?

It makes me feel happy. It doesn't matter how the day is going on, I feel less stress and have more energy to start the day. Also, you are able to move wherever you want, and you don't get stuck in the traffic. You improve your health, and most importantly you are contributing to improve the environment, you really are doing something to reduce your carbon footprint.

What do you like most about the Grafton Gully ride?

I like it because the ride is surrounded by trees and birds all the time, you feel protected from the noisy traffic. The path is perfect to start riding because it starts flat and then it's a little bit hilly, that gives you time to warm up. Then the downhills are such a nice sensation.

What would you say to encourage Aucklanders to start cycling?

Give it a chance, you won't regret it. Pick your bike or rent one and enjoy another way to experience the city. Don't worry about looking like a professional, choose your favourite comfortable clothes and shoes and just ride.

// *You improve your health, and most importantly you are contributing to improve the environment, you really are doing something to reduce your carbon footprint.*

DAVOR'S DEVONPORT COMMUTE

Architect Davor lives in Narrow Neck and often takes his bike on the Devonport ferry.

Why do you choose to ride a bike as a way to get around?

It is as fast as taking the car down to the ferry, parking and walking from the car to the ferry. It is definitely faster (including ferry time) to get to the city in the morning/evening than driving all the way around over the bridge and Lake Rd. It is less stressful and comes with health and environmental benefits, and it's way more fun and engaging.

Do you ever stop along your route? If so, where and why?

I often pick up groceries from the Devonport supermarket or wine from Glengarry's. I also use my bike if I have a meeting in the city or at the university as it's faster and easier to park than driving and more cost effective than taxi.

You have three kids, where are your favourite places to ride with your family?

We often ride around Devonport, Narrow Neck and Cheltenham, school, to the beach in summer and sometime take a ferry to the city and explore. Our eldest is eight so he rides his own bike and the other two are in kids seats on each of our bikes.

Do you have any advice for parents wanting to ride with their children?

Plan and test your routes prior. Safety for us is a primary concern when riding with young children so we tend to stick to either footpaths/shared paths or bike lanes. Follow the rules, take it easy and enjoy.

For anyone considering biking in Auckland what would you say to encourage them to start?

There has never been a better time. It is considerably safer now than a decade ago and it's getting safer all the time. Getting a bike that is suitable for all weather commuting (mudguards, disc brakes, lights etc.) will make it more enjoyable and safer when the weather turns.

Are there any upcoming cyclepath developments you're looking forward to?

I can't wait for the SkyPath. It can't come soon enough. It will expand the horizon for so many of us and hopefully get more commuters on board. With e-bikes the bridge is no longer a massive hill, or if not on an e-bike it makes for great exercise to/from work.



LIFE IN THE
BIKE LANE

CYCLING IN THE CITY

▲ **10.9%**
Curran St
○ 278
● 251

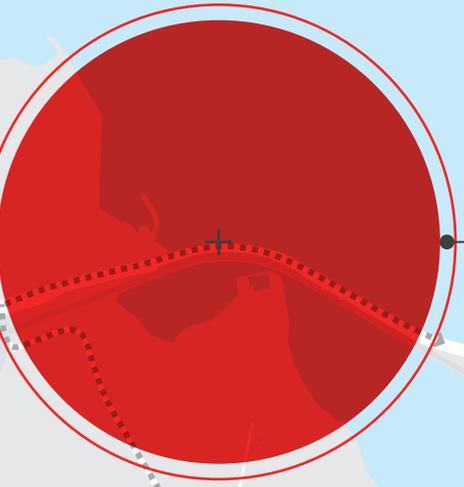
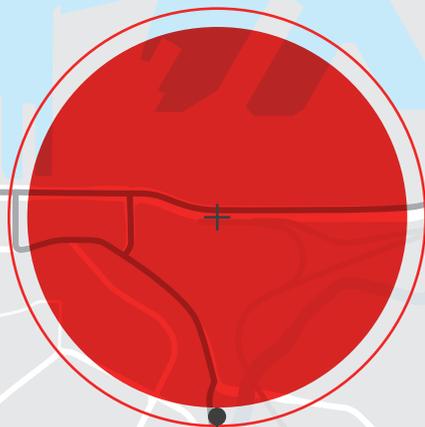
▲ **26.4%**
Te Wero Bridge
○ 671
● 531

▲ **3.2%**
Victoria St West
○ 130
● 126

▲ **10.4%**
Nelson St
○ 372
● 337

▲ **0%**
Karangahape Rd
○ 502
● 502

▲ **14.5%**
Northwestern Path (Kingsland)
○ 752
● 657



▲ **8.7%**
Quay St (Spark Arena)
○ 1099
● 1011

▲ **6.5%**
Grafton Gully
○ 365
● 342

▲ **0.4%**
Grafton Bridge
○ 520
● 518

▲ **5%**
Carlton Gore Rd
○ 211
● 201

▲ **6.3%**
Tamaki Dr
○ 1250
● 1176

KEY

Average daily cycle trip counts for the year

- 2017
- 2016

Gap shows percentage increase of average daily cycle trips



04

**WE'VE ONLY JUST STARTED.
WHERE TO NEXT FOR
AUCKLAND CYCLING?**



LOOKING AHEAD

We are committed to creating safe streets for the people of Auckland. Over the next year we will continue to deliver a cycling network that improves our streets and town centres, and working with our partners to create spaces for people to enjoy and move through with ease, whatever way they choose to travel.

More connections are under construction in 2018 to give more people more access to Auckland's cycling network.

You'll see a new cycleway on Ian McKinnon Drive, polka dot improvements on Federal Street, an extension to the Quay Street Cycleway, local projects in New Lynn and progress on Waitematā Safe Routes. We are also working closely with Panuku Development Auckland and Auckland Council to plan walking and cycling improvements in Henderson.

We will continue to support Bikes in Schools, deliver cycle skills training and education and support children and families making the most of the safe infrastructure we are building around the region.



COMPLETION OF:

- Ian McKinnon Drive
- Northcote Safe Routes
- Seabrook Ave, New Lynn
- Federal St contra-flow cycle lane
- Quay St Cycleway extension to The Strand
- Glen Innes to Tamaki Drive Path – Stage 3

CONSTRUCTION BEGINNING ON:

- Victoria St Cycleway
- Westhaven to City – Stage 2



KEY

- Existing cycle routes
- Cycle routes to progress in 2018



#AKLBikeLife

- 45,600 new riders in 2017
- 35% of all Aucklanders are now cycling in 2017
- 43% of riders are female, up from 37% in 2015
- The average Auckland bike rider travels 391km pr year
- Bikes make up 14.3% of all inbound morning peak traffic via Upper Queen Street
- 28 Auckland schools with Bikes in Schools
- 13,252 students participated in our schools cycle programme
- 324 organisations participated in the Auckland Bike Challenge
- 41% of cycle journeys in Auckland are point-to-point trips
- 45% of Aucklanders are positive about the state of cycling, up from 39% in 2016

 AucklandTransportCycling

 @AklTransport

 AucklandTransport

**For more information about cycling in Auckland,
please visit [AT.govt.nz/cycling-walking](https://at.govt.nz/cycling-walking)**