

**From:** [Stephen Day](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Olivia Murray](#); [Contact](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Latest  
**Date:** Friday, 12 November 2021 9:28:00 am

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and your comments on shared pathways. The commission advocates for shared pathways as a part of our support for active transport and outdoor recreation. Shared pathways for cyclists, walkers, horse riders and other active transport users help connect communities to shops, schools, recreational areas and other local resources. They also connect people to each other and make for stronger communities. It is important that shared paths are well designed so that walkers, bikers, e-bikers, horse riders and others can all share the space safely.

The commission's role is securing legal access for walking and biking trails, we are not funded to build or maintain tracks. Trail building groups are required to follow track design and safety standards set by the relevant agency e.g. Council or DOC. These standards ensure that walkers and bike riders can share the same space.

When we secure new public access we attempt to include cycling access and access for other forms of active transport into the terms of the easement, where it is viable. This reflects the Minister's directive to incorporate cycling access into the work we do. Sometimes this is not possible — sometimes the terrain or the circumstances will not make a shared pathway safe or appropriate. But where it is appropriate shared pathways are our preferred option.

Nāku noa, nā

Stephen

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Promoting access in the outdoors

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[REDACTED]

For info as mentions newsletter. Do I need to send to Ops to respond?

Ngā mihi

Kristen Phillips

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-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 9 November 2021 9:51 am

To: Contact <contact@walkingaccess.govt.nz>

Subject: Latest

I have received today from media@walkingaccess.govt.nz a 'newsletter' on "Tracks, trails, and access to the outdoors"

This newsletter refers to the creation of many trails by the MTB Trails Trust and this has been a phenomenon in recent decades around the country.

Many of these trails have been proposed to offer shared walking and biking tracks but, as anybody walking on these tracks would report, it is quite hazardous to for walkers when high energy bikers are sharing the same track. This is the fundamental flaw in the "shared path" idea.

The MTB Trails Trust and other MTB organisations have been very successful partly due to their ability to raise funds from outside Government sources which has been a key to approval of their plans by government bodies such as city councils.

What then is the Walking Access Commission's stance on shared paths for both walking and biking?

Cheers,