

Opinion

21

Healthy roads

The ongoing opposition from some city councillors to healthy road improvements (*Contentious cycleway work will continue, but the fight is not over, councillor warns*, Feb 22) needs to be called out for what it actually is – opposition to better public health.

The benefits to wellbeing that flow from developing safe active transport infrastructure, from reduced air pollution, less noise pollution, a reduction in physical inactivity, less road trauma and better neighbourhood connections, are both proven and highly cost-effective.

These benefits also accrue to everyone living in an area, whether they make use of the infrastructure or not, and are realised far sooner than the climate benefits.

More than that, it is profoundly unfair that some councillors would seek to continue to deny those living in the northwest and eastern suburbs the benefits that those of us with access to excellent, safe local cycleways already enjoy.

The Wheels to Wings cycleway and Puari ki Te Karoro to New Brighton need to be urgently prioritised and completed.

Dr Dermot Coffey, Co-convenor, OraTaiao: NZ Climate and Health Council, Mt Pleasant