# It’s wheelie dangerous to take shortcuts

**Background:**

The Hawkes Bay Trails – one of 22 “Great Rides” for New Zealand Cycle Trails, has had an increasing number of cyclists from both local (recreational and commuter) as well as tourists.

**The Project:**

There is a busy cycle crossing on Mill Road, next to Black Bridge, allowing cyclist to move between the Haumoana area and the Clive area.

An underpass is available to cyclists, however during cyclist counts, only 50% of cyclists used the underpass (approximately 200 cyclists). Mill Road (Arterial Road) is 100km/h speed limit with AADT of approximately 5500 vehicles per day, which the team believes is a significant Road safety concern.

This study analyses why cyclists are not using the underpass, and how the environment can be altered to encourage more cyclists to use the underpass.

**Methods**

The methodology of the study includes a site investigation in accordance with CPTED guidelines, cyclist’s behaviour observations at the site during 3 consecutive days, expert consultations and an online survey for cyclist experiences.

**Results**

The site observations reveal that crossing the road was practised among both local cyclists and tourists. The online survey results show that in contrast to common belief that cyclist didn’t use it mainly due to the high gradient, road surface quality (22%) and lighting (15%) of the underpass and its’ access are the most common concerns of cyclists. Other factors such as the high gradient, the unsuitability of the squeeze bars, not enough signage and physical barriers, also raised needs for improvement

Recommendations in the short-term focused on improving signage, surface quality, re-study of the squeeze bars and lighting; while in the long-term the space under the bridge should be made more attractive by artwork (painting or sculpture) to naturally divert cycling tourists to use the underpass.