# Working with the community to encourage cycling in South Auckland

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| The Māngere East and Manukau Cycle Network projects aim to go beyond the traditional model for engagement to connect with the diverse communities and needs of the two South Auckland communities. Community Partner Working Groups were established to support the business cases for the two projects, integrating community leaders and cycling advocates from the two areas into the development of cycle networks and fundamental supporting initiatives to encourage increased cycling and Micromobility.  By bringing the community in to the projects earlier and engaging more consistently, we hoped to   * develop cycle networks that met the specific needs of the two communities and focused on routes local people would use * identify barriers to cycling that need to be addressed before or in tandem with infrastructure delivery, such as bike ownership or skills shortages and safety or security concerns * find opportunities to work with local groups and individuals to promote cycling or deliver services related to cycling * build local understanding of and support for the projects well in advance of delivery.   Some key learnings from the process included   * the importance of reflecting local identity and voices, both in the infrastructure and services we deliver and in the way we develop projects * the work needed to normalise cycling more generally before expecting people to cycle to work or school, and the value of recreational cycle routes to achieve this * the amount of local work already being done to build healthier, safer and more prosperous communities, both through cycling and via other related means   This paper will give an overview of the process we undertook, what we learned from working so closely with the community and how we intend to expand on the Community Partner Working Group approach as the two projects progress through detailed design and delivery. |