# “Cycling-led town centre regeneration in Henderson”

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Can a specific focus on cycling assist in town centre regeneration? This presentation will explore the benefits of designing for cycling at the neighbourhood -town centre scale.

Panuku Development Auckland is Auckland Council’s urban regeneration agency that works across 16 town centres throughout Tāmaki Makaurau. It aims to meet the needs of the city’s long-term growth, including increasing the types of homes people can afford close to public transport. While many town centre strategies often focus on things like education, innovation and employment – Panuku’s “Unlock Henderson” programme has put “walking and cycling-led regeneration” at the heart of plans to “create an urban eco-centre” for West Auckland. A focus on safe cycling in particular, helps Henderson with its greatest challenge – safety and perceptions of safety in accessing the town centre.

With six arterial roads looping in and around the core of Henderson, prospective residents, businesses and developers often cite an “unsafe walking and cycling environment” as a barrier to living in and investing in the area. Only 15% of visitors to Henderson Town Centre say they feel safe when visiting. Safety from fast “vehicles” and “other people” were cited as top concerns (Gravitas Henderson Town Centre Survey 2018). To turn this around Panuku has identified that focusing on cycling infrastructure a key way of improving the legibility, safety and connectivity with surrounding residential area and future developments. Crucially it also helps articulate a lifestyle and a point of difference that explains why living in an “urban eco-centre” is a great opportunity- parks, playgrounds, train stations and local shops all within a short bike ride.

To deliver on this vision Panuku is reinvesting revenue from local developments back into high quality cycling and walking infrastructure. Not only does this approach create new linkages from the residential catchment into the town centre it also makes the most of other significant transport investment made by the city, such as the Henderson station to be significantly upgraded as part of the City Rail Link. By working alongside Auckland Transport and community groups such as Bike Henderson, the team is rapidly rolling out 2km of temporary pop-up infrastructure, fixing hundreds of bikes at repair hubs, and using new wayfinding signage and new online engagement tools to prepare the town for a positive walking and cycling future that’s arriving soon.