

Twin Coast Discovery township plans engagement summary

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Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been working on a number of township plans along the Twin Coast Discovery Route to improve safety, access and amenity for pedestrians, cyclists, visitors and communities.

Township plans are being developed for eight Northland townships: Kohukohu, Rawene, Moerewa, Awanui, Kawakawa, Dargaville, Kaikohe and Hōreke.

Earlier this year, the Transport Agency sought community feedback for each of the Twin Coast Discovery township plans. Community focus groups were held in each area to identify options for improvements followed by public drop-in sessions to help us understand which options for improvement are important to each community and why.

Soon we will be finalising and sharing the township plan for each town which will identify projects that have potential to bring mutual benefit to community and visitors. These township plans are a starting point for future investment and can be used to support council planning, work programmes and district plan review. They can also be used by the communities themselves to visualise, support and even lead community projects.

COMMON FEEDBACK THEMES ACROSS THE TOWNSHIPS

OPPORTUNITIES



Celebrate the identity, history and cultural richness of each township through signage, street art and gateway treatments



Connect cycleways and trails to towns to bring visitors in and to increase local usage



Improve harbour and waterways through increased environmental protection and restoration of the harbour, river and tidal edges



Create better linkages to areas of interest to encourage visitors to stay longer, see more and spend more

CHALLENGES



Vehicle speed through townships and the different travel needs of local communities, regional road users and visitors is an issue



Seasonal tourism peaks present challenges for business reliant on passing trade

WHAT YOUR TOWN TOLD US

KOHUKOHU

- Seek safe off-road places for recreation as well as walking and cycling.
- Regular ferry service with additional ferries during peak season.
- Embrace 'Hokianga time' with a slow zone through Kohukohu to encourage people to take time to stop, explore and interact with each other.

MOERewa

- Improve cycling and walking connections to the river and between township and Otiria.
- Cultural markers and signage to encourage visitors off the state highway to explore the environment beyond the town centre.
- Slow the traffic approaching town and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the highway.

KAWAKAWA

- Need to improve traffic flow through town centre to meet the differing needs of pedestrians, regional road users, visitors and local community.
- Opportunity to improve linkages to key visitor attractions with better signage as well as connected walking and cycling trails.
- Celebrate the town's relationship with the landscape and encourage access to the river.

KAIKOHE

- Increase te reo in signage and street art to celebrate the language and provide a live learning experience for community and visitors.
- Improve walking and cycling connections to Ngāwhā and restore the trails along the river.
- Celebrate Kaikohe's place as 'the heart of Ngāpuhi' through distinctive gateway treatments and improved connections to key areas such as Monument Hill.

AWANUI

- Improve the streetscape and improve landmarks in town, to create safe, welcoming places for community and visitors.
- Link the riverside walking and cycling trails to provide better connections to township.
- Slow traffic and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

RAWENE

- Directional signage and pou to make it easier for visitors to get around Rawene.
- Storytelling and walking trail information to share the history and cultural values of Rawene.
- Safe areas away from the road for people to meet and interact.

HŌREKE

- Resilient frequent ferry service needed, with additional ferries during peak season.
- Develop trails along tidal edge to connect towns, improve access to the harbour and extend experiences beyond the end of the cycleway.
- Promote safe road sharing for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

DARGAVILLE

- Reconnect with the riverfront by providing sheltered places such as laneways.
- Improve pedestrian spaces on Hokianga Road to bring community and visitors together.
- Revitalise the 'Kauri Coast' with planting, stories and experiences.