# It’s wheelie dangerous to take shortcuts

**Background:**

The off-road cycle network in Hastings – ‘i-Way’, which commenced in in 2015 has had an increasing number of cyclists from both local (recreational and commuter) as well as tourists. Hastings District Council and the Hawkes Bay Regional Council are always looking at ways of improving the cycle network.

**The Project:**

During a Crash Reduction Study (CRS) of Mill Road, it was noted that there is a busy cycle crossing, next to Black Bridge, allowing cyclist moved 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 online survey for cyclist experiences.

All this information has been captured and analysed to ensure the nest outcome for cyclists in the area.

**Results – *still being collected***

The site observations reveal that crossing the road was practiced among both local cyclists and tourists. The online survey results show that in contrast to common believe that cyclist didn’t use it mainly due to the high gradient, road surface quality (22%) and lighting (15%) of the underpass and its’ accesses are the most common concern of cyclists. Other factors such as the high gradient, the unsuitable of the squeeze bars, not enough signage and physical barriers also raised that need to be improved.