



Preparing for a Cargo bike Revolution

European technology in the cargo bike space is exceptional. With the market expanding overseas and a noticeable number of cargo bikes hitting the NZ market we need to give solid thought about what this means for the design of our cycleway corridors. Designing for new micro-mobility machines in the future design of our cycleways and multi-modal corridors is an exciting challenge. However, there is a lot that we can learn from around the world.

Whilst studying the Planning a Cycling City paper in Amsterdam last year I learnt about the origins and use of the cargo bike through time. I was also fortunate enough to attend the International Cargo Bike Festival in Groningen. The festival opened my eyes to the exciting opportunities that cargo bikes can bring to the way we move both people and freight in our cities. In Europe cargo bikes are common, particularly in The Netherlands and Denmark. While relatively new to New Zealand, many people already now know some of the common brands including Christiania bikes, and Babboe. However, these brands are just a scratch on the surface of what is on offer.

Cargo bikes are slowly becoming a greater part of cycle-life in New Zealand. We currently only really see them being used by some families and an occasional courier company. However, could cargo bikes be used more widely and replace even more vehicle and freight movements in our cities?

Join with me as I share some of the bike technologies I learnt about at the festival. I will also share some of the issues that The Netherlands are currently overcoming in designing cycleways for cargo bikes. I will share some of the innovations we could learn from the Dutch in this space.

