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To Wellington City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on New Mount Victoria Mountain Biking Track

## Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Contact:

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# Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a pan-impairment disabled person’s organisation that works to realise an equitable society, where all disabled people (of all impairment types and including women, Māori, Pasifika, young people) are able to direct their own lives. DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people be recognised as valued members of society. DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs, government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations, and the public by:

* telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers
* developing and advocating for solutions
* celebrating innovation and good practice

# The submission

DPA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the new Mount Victoria Mountain Biking Track. This submission focuses on accessibility and safety issues arising from the track’s placement with following recommendations based around these.

1. Ensuring that mountain bikers at both entry and exit points respect the rights and needs of all pedestrians and other footpath/walkway users,
2. Ensuring accessible viewing places and platforms for disabled people to be spectators, especially at events, and
3. Providing good accessible signage and demarcation of where the track is, which would be important for all people accessing the general area, especially blind, low vision, mobility impaired and older people.

We also touch on the availability of accessible toilets in the vicinity of the track.

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**

The UNCRPD Articles most relevant to our submission are:

* Article 4.3 Involving disabled people and our organisations in decisions that affect us
* Article 9 Accessibility
* Article 20: Personal mobility
* Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026:

* Outcome 5 - Accessibility

# DPA’s recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** DPA recommends that safety guidance be provided through clear signage and written information to all cycle trail users around respecting the rights and needs of all pedestrians and other footpath/walkway users, especially at the entry and exit points on the track and wherever there is reasonable proximity between the trail and any pedestrian access ways. This is to ensure that there are no collisions between pedestrians and mountain bikers cycling at speed within these locations.

**Recommendation 2:** DPA recommends that suitable accessible viewing places and platforms be created around the tracks, especially to enable people using mobility aids (i.e., wheelchairs, walking frames, mobility scooters) and other disabled people to observe mountain biking events provided that all safety measures are taken. Tactile strips should also be placed in these areas (or be in areas where there are already tactile strips in place). Good observation areas could be developed in areas with lower elevations and on the side of entry and exit points thereby enabling accessibility.

**Recommendation 3:** DPA recommends that good, clear accessible signage be placed at the entry and exit points of the track and along it to ensure that there are clear demarcation lines visible, especially for people who are accessing the area as pedestrians, so that accidental collisions between pedestrians (who may accidentally stray onto the track), and cyclists can be avoided. Accessible signage should also be considered so that print, height, and colour contrast are fully considered, especially for blind and low vision people. We would like to encourage the development of safety signage in accessible formats as well (i.e., in New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, Te Reo and ethnic languages) which can be done via the use of electronic apps where people can access this information via a QR code.

**Recommendation 4:** DPA recommends that there be accessible toilets/showering facilities placed within the area so that any disabled person or person with health conditions (who are mountain bikers too) can access them easily.

# Conclusion

DPA would like to see the above-mentioned issues addressed during the planning and construction phases of this project. Disabled people are people who have as much of an interest in the sport of mountain biking both as spectators and participants and the proposed Mount Victoria Mountain Biking Track should be made as accessible as possible. We have a Kaituitui who covers the Wellington area and whom can be reached out to on this subject. We look forward to hearing Council’s response to our submission.