

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa on Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Plan 2016

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Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the committee for this opportunity to submit and supports the four priority areas of focus:

- Investing in regional infrastructure
- Growing public transport patronage, and people walking and cycling
- Making sure we can cope in emergencies
- Keeping our environment clean

However we are unclear how GW is growing walking and would like to see some projects in the annual plan to achieve this. We note the report from GW 'State of Walking report' (2015) states that since 2011 funding for walking has been zero. Time to change this if growing walking is indeed a priority.

The same report identifies walking as the key sustainable means to access public transport. There should be a priority for projects to build on this. Integrated ticketing is identified as one means to do this, and to increase bus to train trips (rather than the current focus on park and ride).

Again the same report indicates that increased residential density around public transport stops would increase walking and use of public transport. Instead valuable land around train stations is being used for 'free' car parking. The report suggested that at stations where there is little parking more people walk. One way to pay for improved walking infrastructure and to encourage more walking is to charge car parking at these valuable public transport locations.

Delays in Integrated Ticketing - We are concerned that the implementation of integrated ticketing has been delayed. A reliable solution should be put in place urgently.

We note WCC has adopted the sustainable transport hierarchy (Urban Growth Plan) that prioritises pedestrians, we would like to see GW do the same so that all transport plan would have a forward looking, sustainable basis.

Another way to grow both walking and public transport, and invest in infrastructure, is to improve bus stops and train stations. There are a number of issues at these stops that create a barrier to both walking and public transport use. We have identified issues at Wellington Railway Station (through a Community Street Review), at Takapu Road station, at Melling Station (through a Community Street Review), and at a number of bus stops in Wellington.

The RLTP requires a 50% reduction in pedestrian road injuries – how will this annual plan help to implement that?

The RLTP requires an increase of walking journey-to-work trips, how will this annual plan help to increase this?

The RLTP requires an increase in walking to school trips, what increase in school travel planning programmes is included in this annual plan?

The RLTP requires a reduction in CO2 emissions – how will this annual plan achieve that? We support retention of the clean trolley bus fleet at least until end of life and the replacement by electric vehicles rather than reverting to diesel.

Wellington transport plan

We support the additional activity of GW working with the Wellington community to develop our transport options.

We support the move to have a GW electric car fleet this will help support the new technology and lead to improved air quality.

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz