

The National Walking Plan

Living Streets Aotearoa Walking Summit

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Overview

Purpose:

- To update you on the development of the National Walking Plan

What we'll cover:

- Why this plan is being developed and its purpose
- The process to develop the plan
- Emerging themes
- Drafting the plan - Proposed strategic priorities

Why the plan is being developed and its purpose



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Why the plan is being developed

- Trigger was the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan (**ERP**)
 - Part of Action 10.1.2 – *Deliver a step change in cycling and walking rates*
 - “Deliver a national plan to significantly increase the safety and attractiveness of walking”
- Recognises:
 - walking and cycling are different modes
 - improving walkability is also vital for boosting public transport use



More walking will boost health and wellbeing

Walking benefits physical and mental health

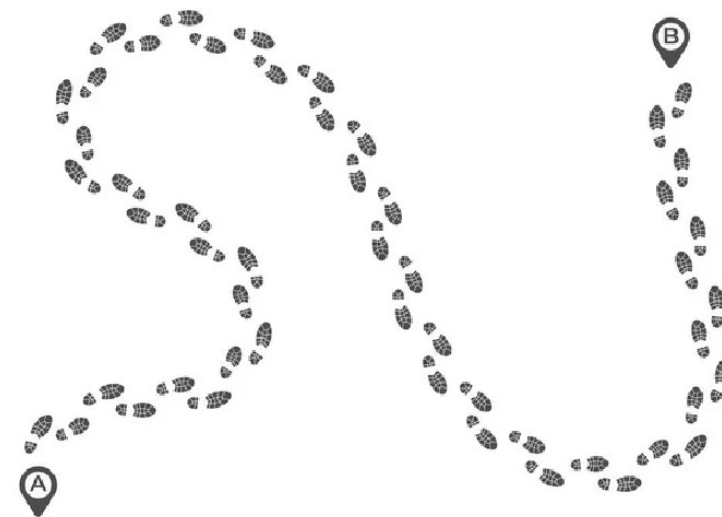
New Zealanders average only one hour per week walking

Only half of us meet the Ministry of Health's physical activity guidelines

The quality of urban environments also has major impacts on our wellbeing



Delivering a step change in walking rates is also essential to achieve broader national and local priorities...



Making places safe for people walking will reduce deaths and injuries

Government's *Road to Zero* strategy sets out a vision where no one is killed or seriously injured in road crashes

189 people were killed on our roads while travelling by foot and 1,517 were seriously injured from 2016-2022



Making places more walkable will help to create an inclusive society

Our towns and cities need to be fit for people of all ages and abilities

About a quarter of our population identify as disabled

Government's *Better Later Life Strategy* highlights the need to make it easier and safer for older New Zealanders to be able to walk places



Walkability is essential to create well-functioning and vibrant towns and cities

Recent changes to the planning system require councils to create 'well-functioning' urban environments and to enable much more intensification

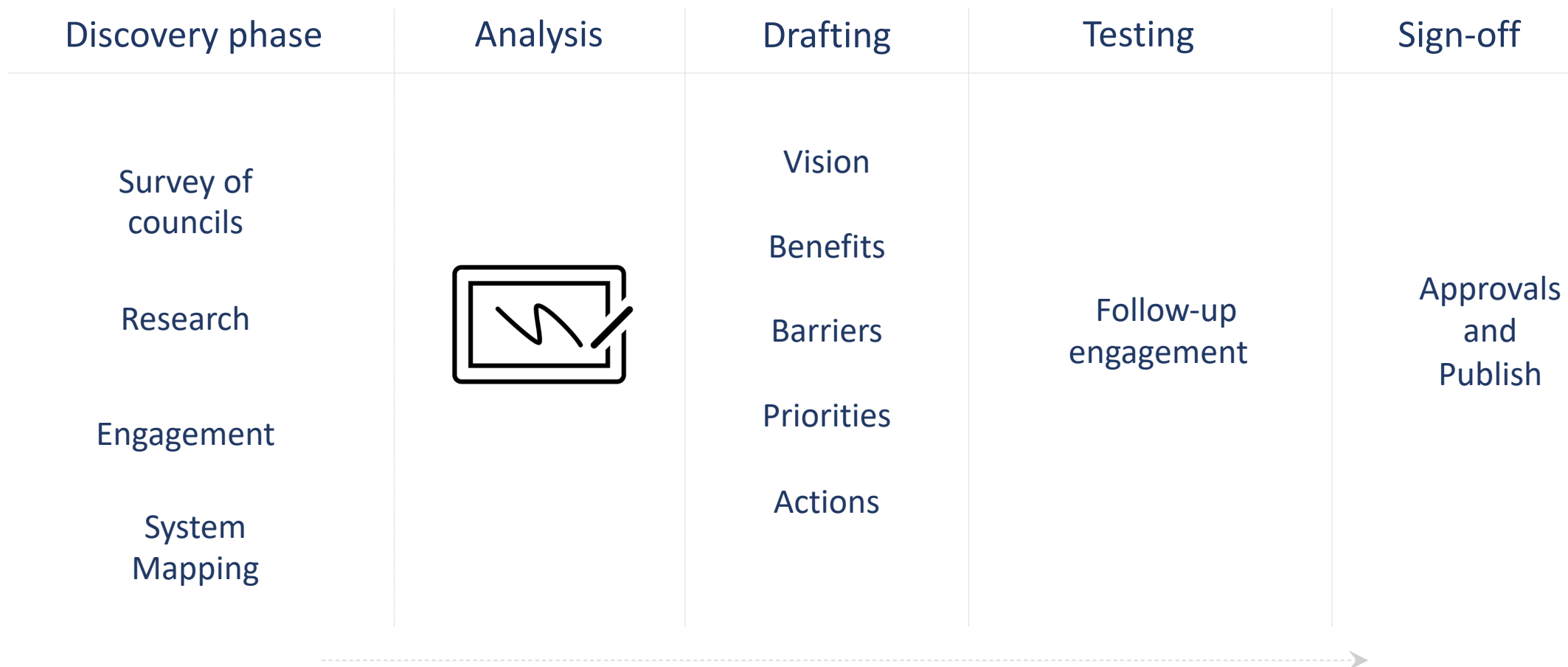
We need to give people better options for getting around to reduce vehicle traffic and avoid congestion

Walking brings life to our streets and communities



The process to develop the plan

Development Phases



[Discovery phase

Targeted engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders to understand participants' aspirations around walking and experience or observations of walking in their communities – what are the barriers and the opportunities

System Mapping - To map the socio-technical system that impacts the number and frequency of people walking in New Zealand and understand the various components of the system

Survey to gain insights from council stakeholders

Research -International summary of walking plans, benefits of walking and New Zealand/Aotearoa based research



Emerging themes from the discovery phase



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Themes – context

- New Zealand has low rates of walking and they are declining
- The existing state of walking within New Zealand differs across our urban areas and amongst different groups within society
- Groups within our society have different experiences of walking
- People want to walk for many reasons
- Priority for walking is low and being eroded



Themes – benefits

- Significant physical and mental health benefits
- Good for the climate
- Provides equitable, resilient access
- Good for the economy
- Walking improvements makes our transport system safer



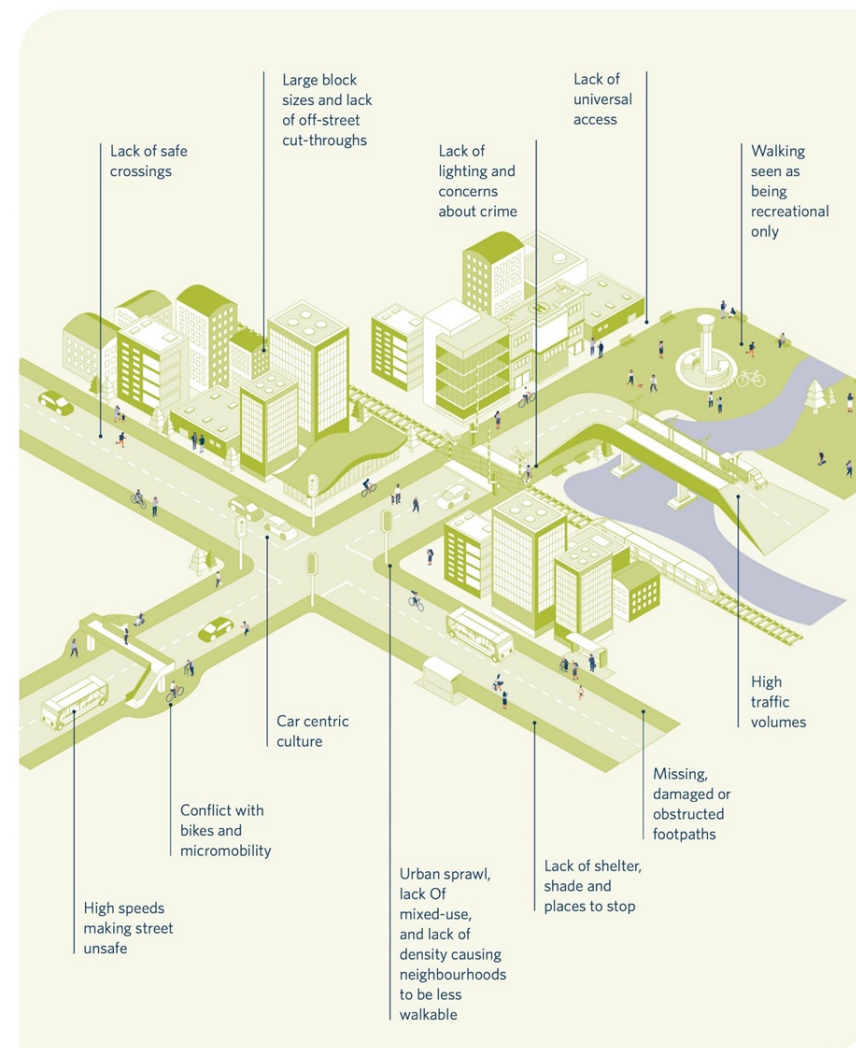
Themes – Barriers and Challenges

The barriers and challenges to walking raised by stakeholders aligned closely with key national and international research findings.

- Safety concerns
- Accessibility of footpaths and other infrastructure
- Poor connections
- Land use and planning and the built environment
- Inequities
- Funding
- Walking culture
- Overall, a key theme which sits across many of the barriers described above, was that walking is not prioritised within the transport system or our broader culture.



Themes – barriers (street level)



Themes – the transformation needed

Show leadership

- Establish a people first model
- Strong governance
- Collective influence (working together)

Build a cultural shift

- Shifting habits
- Moving mental models
- Decision making

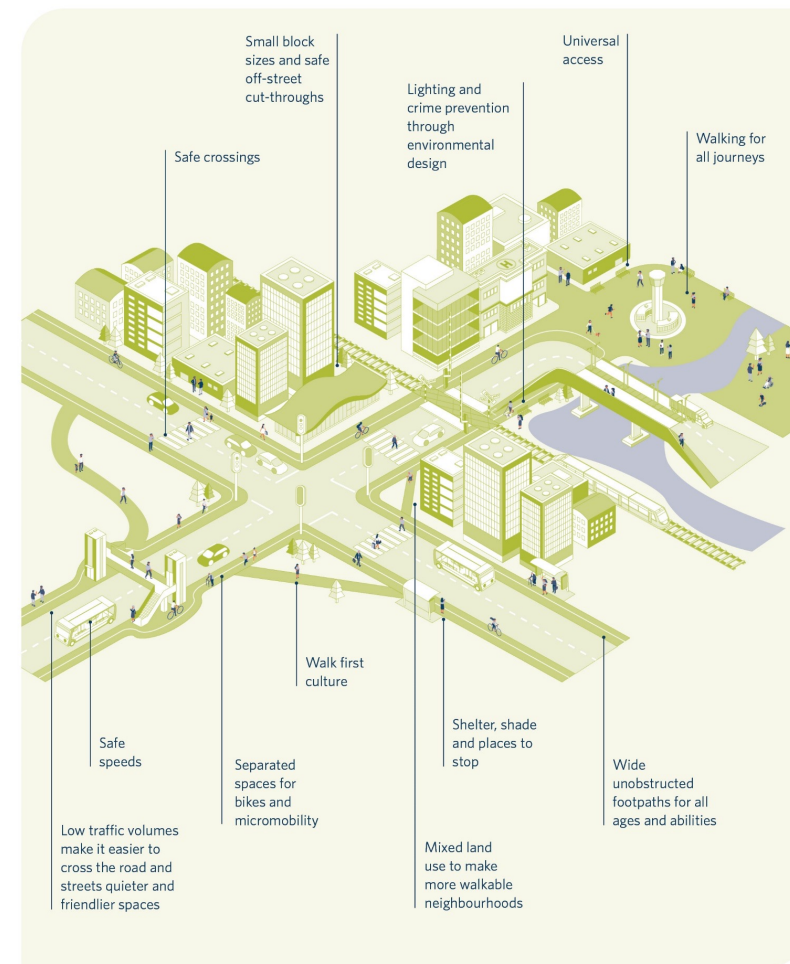
Championing equity

- Create safe pathway networks accessible for all
- Create desirable places

Use and build evidence

- Data
- Measure health and social outcomes not just transport outcomes

Themes – the transformation needed



Drafting the Plan – Proposed Strategic Priorities



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Proposed Strategic Priorities

A transport system that prioritises walkability

Unlocking our funding system

Places and streets that support people walking

A culture where more people walk

Putting walking at the heart of our decision-making and embedding it in all aspects of the transport system

Unlocking the way transport funding is used, and making funding processes easier to navigate

Supporting safe and attractive streets and places that encourage more people to walk

Raising the profile of walking and ensuring everyone is equipped with the support they need to walk

Thank you



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