

## **Living Streets Aotearoa Submission on the Land Transport Amendment Bill**

Contact person: Meg Christie  
Email: [meg.christie@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:meg.christie@livingstreets.org.nz)  
Phone: 03 3786717 (day) 9811304 (evening)  
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Living Streets Aotearoa's prime focus is to encourage and support pedestrian activity and the funding of infrastructure that contributes to walkable communities. When we refer to walkers we refer to anyone who uses the foot path which also includes public transport users.

We advocate that walking should be viewed as a legitimate form of transport and given the funding this warrants.

We represent both the mobility and visually impaired, the very old and the very young, and people who have no other forms of transport.

Much of our philosophy is in line with cycling advocates in that we recognise the significant health, economic and environmental benefits to be gained from more people walking and cycling more often. Facilities to provide for pedestrians and people who cycle are relatively cheap and have cost benefit ratios that building more and bigger roads for private motor vehicle use simply does not offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important Bill.

Living Street Aotearoa has opposes this Land Transport Amendment Bill. We are concerned that it supports outdated unaffordable and undemocratic transport policy.

We believe that the Bill will disregard public health and sustainability criteria in transport planning and project prioritization. We remain concerned that multi modal transport options will be neglected in long term planning.

We believe that it will compromise local body's ability to pursue those transport projects which are responsive to local needs and that the Bill will also compromise the diverse and community voices on Regional Transport Committees

Living Streets Aotearoa does not support allowing NZTA to borrow so they can complete the Roads of National Significance projects. We are deeply concerned that future projects that support sustainable transport/integrated transport modes will continue to be largely unfunded and that taxes will go primarily into road maintenance and transport-related debt repayments to the exclusion of all else.

We strongly believe that, to meet most local and urban transport needs we need to give more priority to active transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport. Transport in a private vehicle definitely has a part to play, but we cannot afford to let it dominate all funding and attention. Shifting the emphasis creates winners all around: The more people are encouraged out of their cars and to travel on foot and public transport and cycle, the healthier they become, while more road space given over to those who have no other choice but to drive, such as freight and trades people, making journey's more efficient and safe for all.