

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

Welcome to the November 2017 eBulletin of Living Streets Aotearoa.

Living Streets Aotearoa congratulates our new government which promises to be responsive to the needs of walking and pedestrians. We are yet to see the details of how this will manifest and address our four point plan:

- **funding for walking through a National Land Transport Plan FAR (funding assistance rate) - promising with news of active neighbourhood work but details yet to be revealed how this will apply to pedestrians**
- **standards for pedestrian facilities - no news yet**
- **slower speeds around schools and shopping areas - seems likely**
- **focus on children walking to school - also seems likely**

Living Streets is concerned at the latest trends in crash statistics which show the injury rate from road crashes is increasing. Statistics NZ [serious injury outcome report](#) highlights this and shows the rate for both Maori and [children](#). The Maori rate of injury in motor-vehicle injury is high. Time for a [Vision Zero approach](#) for New Zealand.

The [Auckland business case for walking](#) in the central city was presented at Walk21 in Calgary and received international attention as one of the first business cases that document the value of walking. Using the NZTA approach to value the economic impacts of transport decisions but applied to walking for the first time, the Auckland report was based on three bits of analysis:

- Measuring pedestrian delay - the cost of delay to pedestrians (at pedestrian crossings in particular),
- The Relationship between pedestrian connectivity and economic productivity in Auckland city centre -
- a VURT (valuing urban realm toolkit) analysis based on the Transport for London model - provides evidence to invest in the public realm

This report looked outside traditional transport economics, which values benefits directly to the transport user (but not usually pedestrians), and

valued the economic benefit of walking trips within the central city as well as the much smaller number of walking trips into the centre. We look forward to future analysis also including health benefits, accessibility benefits and crash reduction benefits. The number of pedestrians on Queen Street has doubled since 2012.

We are looking forward to this type of analysis being used in other parts of the country to value and justify the significant improvements in pedestrian infrastructure needed.

The Centre for Sustainable Cities seminar on [Sustainable Cities in an Ageing Society](#) by Kay Saville-Smith focused on both housing and travel needs of older people. No surprise then that walking and pedestrian infrastructure plays a key role. We recommend [watching the video](#) of the talk.

A new NZ tool to measure [accessibility and useability of parks and playgrounds](#) has been developed and used in 41 playgrounds in Porirua. The importance of play for children in particular is well known but many playgrounds do not provide access for all children. This tool helps to identify design issues so that parks can include play for all. Expect more to be heard of this after the NZRA conference this week.

Recent [reports have highlighted](#) New Zealand's poor performance with increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Road transport has had one of the largest increases in emissions, with a 78% increase since 1990. Transport improvements are one of the easier sectors to address and increased rates of walking will be one of the solutions to help this. And yes our four point plan will help.

The [Global Mobility Report](#) is the first-ever study to assess the global performance of the transport sector and the progress made toward four main objectives: universal access, efficiency, safety, and green mobility. According to the report, the world is not on track to achieving sustainable mobility. Apart from being inaccessible to many of the world's most vulnerable, the transport sector today is plagued by high fossil fuel use, rising greenhouse gas emissions, air and noise pollution, an alarming number of road fatalities, and a reluctance to embrace digitalization.

Gehl Institute [Open Public Life Protocol](#) version 1 describes a set of metrics that are important to the understanding of public life—people moving and staying in public space—and aims to establish a common format for the collection and storage of such data. Together with the [International Walking Data Standard](#) this will give a good understanding of our public spaces and the impact of developments on them.

Internationally there have been some new developments in pedestrian

crossing technologies. [Futuristic crossings](#) that can automatically adjust size to the numbers and speed of people crossing are now in development. These crossings are designed with pedestrians in mind not vehicles as has been traditional. Crossings that appear where you want to cross sound like just the ticket.

Talking, walking, seeing fall colours and catching up with friends and family - what's not to like about a visit to North America in September [see this Blog by Celia Wade-Brown](#)

In 2015, researchers at the University of Michigan determined that pedestrians are more than three times as likely to be killed when struck by an SUV than when struck by a regular passenger vehicle. The critical design factor is the high, blocky front end, which pushes people below the wheels instead of over the hood. [Read more here.](#)

Julie Anne Genter says “here is great writing and observations from one of the founders of Women in Urbanism Auckland, my friend, Emma McInnes. “[Why “Designing Cities for Women” should be a thing.](#)

The [World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims \(WDR\)](#) is commemorated on Sunday 19 November. – to remember the many millions killed and injured on the world’s roads, together with their families, friends and many others who are also affected. It is also a Day on which we thank the emergency services and reflect on the tremendous burden and cost of this daily continuing disaster to families, communities and countries, and on ways to halt it. We suggest that the new Government should implement Vision Zero.

There will be a Stand for WDR on Sunday 19 at 3:30 in Silo Park Auckland. [More events here.](#)

Golden Foot Walking Awards coming up in 2018.

Have you got a walk project in mind? See the [details here.](#)

If you are not yet a member of Living Streets [please join here. We need you.](#)