

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

Submission from Wellington Living Streets to Wellington City Council on Wellington Annual Plan

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General

We support the continuation of the Annual Plan 2020/21 work programme. Many of these programmes will improve essential services required by Wellingtonians, such as the three waters upgrade process.

Covid19 response plan

Council finances – we support using mechanisms available to assist payments both from ratepayers to council and from council to suppliers:

- Defer rates payments
- Rent relief for council facilities
- Improve payments to suppliers

Council services – we support careful management of fees and grants to support recovery:

- Pavement licence rebate for fourth quarter seems reasonable but use of public space particularly footpath space is one of our most valuable spaces and should be retained for public use. Public space has high value and the private business use of that space must be also valued accordingly. For instance Courtenay Place bars often use more cheaper public footpath space than they pay market rental for inside space. We support good management of footpath space as the most valuable of public spaces with high use and amenity for all Wellingtonians. Most of this footpath space should be kept free for the public to use. We support matching licence fees to use of the footpath.

Community wellbeing - we support assistance to community groups and the vulnerable in Wellington:

- Community grant funding
- Support reducing homelessness
- Support vulnerable with food
- Outreach to vulnerable people
- Get people active – gym, zoo and pools

We would like to see support for keeping **people active on foot** as well as at specific facilities. Some suggestions below are particularly to support local walking.

We support **school travel initiatives** particularly that improve safety for walking around schools. Some additional effort is required to encourage parents to walk their kids to school in the post-Covid19 world.

Economic recovery

- Business support – including resource recovery centre
- City recovery fund – including creative and innovative sectors
- City recovery plan – we would like to see this plan have a focus on supporting footfall and walkability along the Golden Mile by increasing space and priority for pedestrians (decals on footpaths do not welcome walkers back to the city centre and add to clutter; allowing more sandwich boards, tables and chairs onto footpaths make walking a less pleasant experience – use road space instead)

Absolutely Positively Wellington

- Pride in the city – caring spirit and support for the Built Heritage Fund and earthquake strengthening heritage buildings. These add to the interesting fabric of Wellington and help make it a pleasure to walk around.

Regional and central government collaboration

- We support including Mana whenua in
- Advocate to central government – a capital city fit for future

Tipu toa – build back better

- Minor roading improvements designed to make walking safer, more child friendly and more accessible.

We support this particular aspect of Tipu Toa as low cost improvements can often have a high value impact for many pedestrians, and even better value as the NZTA FAR will contribute to any footpath improvements and maintenance. Some of the improvements could include:

- a. Many people will be spending more time in their local community, including people who are now working from home, have children unexpectedly at home, or who are now unemployed or under-employed. They need a pleasant local walking environment and activities. That includes widened footpaths, kerb drop-offs and kerb extensions, improvements to local parks, simple things for kids to play on (even just a log surrounded by wood chips that small children can walk along), sensitive vegetation management on the edges of walkways, signage and wayfinding. For example trialling or creating new footpath on Sar Street to Barnard St would assist the walk trip from Wadestown and Highland Park to the city.
- b. Shortcuts, laneways and off-road paths like well-marked “greenway” walking routes could be improved with signs and wayfinding that show direct links to bus stops, shops, etc. For instance the greenway from city to Kelburn we have previously proposed.
- c. Seats enable many people to walk a short distance from home and by sitting can help connect them to their neighbourhood. With frequent rests they should be able to carry out daily activities such as shopping on foot. These are often the people who also don't have a drivers licence or car, and easily become socially isolated. For instance seating along the route from Rita Angus in Kilbirnie to the library and shops with improvements to the intersection would help get more people out.
- d. Toilets. The city needs more toilets, but also more signage to tell people where the nearest toilet is. One way to provide extra income to small businesses is to pay them to allow their toilet to be used by the desperate – Hutt City Council pays a mall owner the cost of toilet paper and cleaning to

have the mall toilets open to the general public. This obviously benefits the business owner as well.

- e. Shopping and village centre improvements. Most of our shopping centres could be more attractive places to linger. They need accessible design and good maintenance of footpaths, and shortcuts, seats and toilets with small spaces for kids to play, shelter in all weathers, amenity (e.g. a mural, a small sculpture, a garden), some separation from traffic fumes and traffic noise, and good lighting and safety design. Karori redevelopment is a good example of where this is happening in Wellington. Local improvements are needed in more suburbs.
2. Public transport – improving bus stops and shelters is one way to provide more seating and support use of public transport. Better design to make stops nice places to be will add to neighbourhood placemaking.

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