

Living Streets Aotearoa



Living Streets North Shore

A Walking Action Group / Branch of Living Streets Aotearoa Inc.

Submission on Auckland Council's Draft Long-Term Plan, 2012-2022 and Draft Regional Land Transport Programme

Living Streets North Shore requests the opportunity to speak to this submission.

Background

Living Streets Aotearoa is a national organisation with a vision of

More people choosing to walk more often.

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- To promote walking as a healthy, accessible, cheap, sociable and environmentally-friendly means of transport and recreation.
- To promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities.
- To work for walking-friendly communities with improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners.
- To advocate for greater representation of walker and pedestrian concerns in land use and transport planning and urban design.
- To raise the profile of walking through education, debate, campaigns, publications, seminars and conferences.
- To foster consideration for people with special mobility needs.

Living Streets North Shore is the North Shore based walking action group / branch of Living Streets Aotearoa, which is working to make communities on Auckland's North Shore, now represented by the Devonport – Takapuna, Kaipatiki, Hibiscus and Bays and Upper Harbour Local Boards, more walking-friendly.

Living Streets North Shore represents a group of people from community, transport, health, recreation and other sectors of North Shore supported by Living Streets Aotearoa to advocate for better walking infrastructure and policies and for the needs of those using the pedestrian facilities of the area.

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

Introduction

Living Streets North Shore (Living Streets NS) welcomes the opportunity to make a formal submission on the Draft Long-Term Plan and Regional Land Transport Programme.

Living Streets is pleased to see a range of projects highlighted in the Draft Plan which would improve the environment for pedestrians in town centres and communities throughout the North Shore and across Auckland.

This submission emphasises the importance of walkable environments and supports the early completion of those projects which will have the most impact on improving the walking environment on the North Shore.

Projects supported

Living Streets NS supports all the local board projects designed to enhance off-road walking/cycling routes, in particular improvements to the Milford to Devonport coastal walkway and projects to extend and improve the inner harbour walkway/cycleway from Devonport to Takapuna and beyond. Living Streets NS supports the development of shared walking/cycling routes provided these are designed to meet NZTA guidelines¹ and the needs of walkers and cyclists are accommodated.

Two critical projects which should be completed within the next five years are the reinstatement of the bridge across the Wairau Stream providing a link between Milford and Castor Bay, and the widening of the pipe bridge at Northboro reserve so that walkers and cyclists can share this route safely.

Living Streets NS supports the Kaipatiki Walking and Cycling Track network plan.

Living Streets NS supports town centre and roading projects where the needs of pedestrians are recognised and their environment improved. Slower speeds in town centres and safe crossing points on busy routes are essential enhancements. Improvements which provide better “on foot” access to public transport are also critical.

Living Streets NS supports Cycle Action Auckland’s submission which focuses on active transport needs and their important interface with public transport across Auckland.

Not supported

Living Streets NS does not support public money being spent to develop a car park facility in Takapuna. This does not appear to be consistent with the Auckland Regional Parking Strategy². Town centres should be designed to be people, not car friendly.

Concerns

Living Streets NS is disappointed that no funding is currently allocated to support a walkway/cycleway across the Auckland Harbour Bridge. This project has strong support from the community and would contribute to Auckland becoming a more liveable city.

Living Streets asks that sufficient funding be allocated to ensure that development of the proposed National Ocean Water Sports Centre at Takapuna Beach also enhances pedestrian access to the beach and associated reserve and improves pedestrian links to the town centre.

Conclusions

Living Streets North Shore supports Council and local board initiatives to develop liveable, walkable communities. Living Streets asks that the Council and local boards work with Auckland Transport to ensure the city's urban and transport plans make Auckland a more pedestrian friendly and less car dependent city.

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References

1. NZTA. Pedestrian planning and design guide, 2007. 14.12 Shared-use paths3.
Online at: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/pedestrian-planning-guide/docs/chapter-14.pdf>

2. Auckland Regional Parking Strategy 2009. Online at:
<http://www.arc.govt.nz/albany/fms/main/Documents/Transport/Regional%20parking%20strategy.PDF>