



Community Street Reviews - Why would you want to do one?

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY STREET REVIEW?

A Community Street Review or CSR is a systematic approach to measuring the walkability of a selected route from the point of view of the ordinary person on the street, or the user. The methodology, developed by Living Streets, has been adopted by NZTA as the official method of assessing the extent to which the built environment is walking friendly.

A group of local volunteers and professionals walk the route with a trained living streets reviewer and use a simple rating technique to identify problem areas and potential improvements.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES A CSR PROVIDE?

A Level of service score is produced for each route section and crossing, as well as for different aspects of walkability. This enables the practitioner to quickly and accurately identify problems and successful areas.

Qualitative information on the problems and opportunities are also outlined for each section, allowing ideas and innovative solutions to be recorded or to specifically identify particular problems.

Operational data (such as traffic numbers on adjacent roads) is collected at the time. This is all then entered into the national database enabling a comparison over time and with other locations. The full methodology is described in www.levelofservice.com

HOW CAN YOU FUND A CSR?

Community Street Reviews can be funded through the Community Programmes work category (432) of the National Land Transport Programme. For these schemes the Financial Assistance Rate is 75%, meaning that the local contribution is only 25% of the cost.

For more information go to:

<http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/funding/ppfm/>

WHEN MIGHT YOU USE A CSR?

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs)

The CSR methodology makes it ideally placed to form part of the data collection phase of a NAP project, meeting all the underlying NAP principles. Specifically, a CSR will identify issues and raise possible solutions related to walking accessibility. In addition it will meet the needs for community consultation, by involving community members as part of the process as well as council staff and professionals.

Recommendations that emerge from the CSR will be able to be prioritised and developed to form implementation initiatives, that will usually fall in the engineering category.

Measuring Pedestrian satisfaction

Many Councils have a clause in their LTCCP to measure the level of pedestrian satisfaction with footpath quality and walking infrastructure. Whilst this is measured by some councils, it is often in a single subjective measure, which does not accurately reflect walkers views. A CSR is a systematic and detailed approach to measuring pedestrian satisfaction. CSRs are comparable over time so can be undertaken on a regular schedule to monitor improvements.

In addition, councils have walking strategies that outline steps to increasing the number of pedestrians and improving the walking infrastructure. Community Street Reviews are ideal for measuring the quality of existing infrastructure and making recommendations to help meet the targets set out in walking strategies.

Workplace and school travel planning

A CSR is an ideal tool to assess the quality of routes to workplaces, schools or CBD's or even supermarkets. The methodology will identify any crucial 'bottlenecks' or dangerous areas that prevent people walking around a specified area or along a route.

Road or area up-grading

Before a major development project, a CSR can be undertaken to provide base-line data to assess the quality of the walking environment. These findings can then advise the plans as they develop, ensuring that high quality areas are recognised and improvements are made to problem areas.

CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

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