

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

New Zealand Walking Conference 2006 3 – 4 November 2006

ABSTRACT

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Presentation topic			
Presentation title	Why walking provided our school with a traffic safety solution		
Presentation Style	Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Interactive Workshop <input type="checkbox"/>
Time Required	0-10 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	10-20 mins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20-30 mins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Presentation Remit

Concern expressed by our Board of Trustees, staff and parents about the safety of our pupils when travelling to and from school resulted in the Board commissioning a transportation appraisal. The appraisal was to identify the hazards faced by our pupils in their travel to school based on increasing awareness of :

- Traffic congestion
- High numbers of children coming to and from school by car (adding to the congestion around the school)
- The school being located by two arterial routes – Centaurus Road and Colombo Street
- Existing pedestrian traffic facilities, e.g. pedestrian crossings are barely adequate

Through a systematic and objective investigation of this problem we were aiming to identify and define the issues, then develop a strategy to overcome these issues.

The resulting report was intended to identify strategies for improving safety of children while coming and going from school. The report steps back and looks at the bigger picture ensure we have not missed anything, to confirm or discount current perceptions (e.g. how dangerous is Colombo Street for pedestrians?), to gain an understanding of trends in traffic e.g. congestion and the impact of congestion on child pedestrian safety, etc;

The study identified that the central part of our strategy should be getting children to walk to school. A significant number of our parent community would like their children walk to school however the perceived "safety" for children walking to school needs to be improved. Improving safety will require a range of measures to be put in place such as promoting the walking school bus, engineering improvements such as traffic lights, better pedestrian crossings facilities, better pavements for pedestrians e.g. on river side of Sloan Tce, cutting back or removing of trees shrub constricting foot paths etc;

We found that parents bringing their children to school by car are actually increasing the overall traffic hazard faced by pedestrians in the vicinity of the school because they add to the number of vehicles on the road and because of the manoeuvring that they do to drop their children off. The final report provides a solid basis to allow us to approach the Community Board, City Council, MoE to direct improvements in traffic safety around the school and to seek further funding.

We are greatly encouraged by the findings of the study as it clearly identifies what the real issues are. It is now up to us to work with our pupils, parents, community, and other stakeholders to develop a plan forward. "Buy in" and ownership by all parties concerned will be a key to the success of this initiative in the future.

Overall we feel others would find our experiences of undertaking what was originally a safety perception that developed into a transportation travel strategy interesting and informative.