Funding Walking Projects

Tips & tricks

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NZ Walking Conference August 2008

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The warm fuzzies….

- Government Policy supports walking more than it has done for decades – an opportunity exists that may never come again

- The government is aligning policy with funding decisions

  - Government Policy Statement

  - New funding category for pedestrians

  - New guidelines for walking strategies and pedestrian facilities

  - Advice on monitoring

Reality strikes….

- International Walking Charter – all talk and no action?

- Increasing community expectations lead to council budget cuts

- Increasing cost of infrastructure means each $ buys less

- Walking projects do not win votes

- Everybody walks already and most roads have footpaths

- Walking advocates are too nice

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The Strategic Route part 1….

First you need a strategy

- What you want to achieve?

- How long it will take?

- What will it cost?

- How do you know whether you have been successful?

NZTA will "support" strategies it agrees with

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The Strategic Route part 2….

Packages and groups of activities

- Packages of synergistic activities (multi agency, multi modal, 3 E's)

- Groups of similar projects (low cost, low risk, generic projects)

- Calculate a Package or Group benefit/cost ratio

NZTA will "endorse" packages and groups that deliver supported strategies

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The Strategic Route part 3….

Individual projects are submitted for NZTA funding

- Projects need to implement the endorsed packages/groups and the supported strategies

- Streamlined funding approval

- Individual BCR not needed for small projects under $250k (to be confirmed)

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The problem with the Strategic Route….

- Time to get to funding approval for individual projects

- Predictions of growth – impact on benefit/cost ratio

- Measurement and monitoring

- Existing government bias against recreational walking projects………

However

- More effort at the strategic end will mean less effort at the project level

- we need to start now for 2012/13 LTCCP

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The shortcut ….

- Safety / minor improvements projects

- School Travel Plans

- Maintenance programmes

- Council or Community Board discretionary funds

Safety / minor improvement projects….

Each Council has an allowance equal to 8% of the

maintenance budget to spend on

- Pedestrian crossings

- Safety footpaths that conform to NZTA policy

- Intersection improvements

- Minor engineering works associated with community programmes

- Traffic calming

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School Travel Plans….

- Benefit / cost ratio is already calculated (based on an expected mode shift across a school)

- Can include an audit of existing infrastructure to pick up barriers to walking or pedestrian safety issues, as well as feedback from current pupils

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Maintenance Programmes….

- Signs and markings, including destination signs

- Lighting at pedestrian crossings

- Traffic counts – now include cyclists, why not pedestrians?

- Repair and rehabilitation of roads and footpaths

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Discretionary funding….

Councils and Community Boards often have discretionary funding

- Ribbon cutting ceremonies

- Very few rules about what the money is spent on

- No need to meet NZTA criteria

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In conclusion….

- Window of opportunity – environmental and sustainability issues are high profile

- We need to think strategically but this takes time and requires a lot of effort

- There are ways to get funding that are not difficult but require relationship building

I know I said walking advocates were too nice….

- While the moaners and complainers get a lot of press it won't necessarily help to get your project funded (i.e. implemented)

- Make a Council Engineer your friend today – take them for a walk!

- Say thank you (in a letter to the Mayor)

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