



Welcome to the March 2019 eBulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa.

Coalition of Footpath Users

Living Streets Aotearoa has sought to improve provision for pedestrians, walkers and people with disabilities who may use mobility devices. However, recently our efforts have had to be directed at protecting footpaths and pedestrians from threats posed by new forms of 'micro-mobility' vehicles (e.g. e-scooters). Central and local government has allowed these vehicles onto our footpaths.

We have formed a coalition of interested organisations who have an active interest to ensure that all New Zealanders can safely access the physical services they need for everyday life. We have been meeting with various agencies to discuss our concerns. We highlighted the need for walking to be put on an equal footing with other modes of transport as part of a truly integrated, equitable transport system. We have received positive responses. We understand Cabinet is due to consider an 'Accessible Streets' transport rules package in early April which **will include provision to cycle on footpaths**.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to meet with Transport or other Government Ministers on this subject which is highly disappointing given the urgency of the matter.

The coalition so far brings together Living Streets Aotearoa with Grey Power, CCS-Disability Action, the Blind Foundation, Deaf NZ, Alzheimers NZ, Visual Impairment Charitable Trust Aotearoa, Disabled Persons Assembly, Nelson-Tasman Accessibility for All Forum and Movement. Other organisations are either still actively considering joining the coalition or keeping a watching brief.

Please let us know if your group is interested in joining with us on this important matter.

What can you do?

Communicate with your local MP and with the Ministers of Transport (p.twyford@ministers.govt.nz, and j.genter@ministers.govt.nz), Health (d.clark@ministers.govt.nz), Local Government (n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz), Seniors (t.martin@ministers.govt.nz), Disability Issues (c.sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz) and the Prime Minister (j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz).

Ask Ministers for

- comprehensive consideration to be given to the role of walking in our transport system,
- the need to ensure dedicated space to walkers, pedestrians and people reliant on

- mobility devices
- better data to be collected on pedestrians and the impact on pedestrians of changes on the footpath
- that we retain the New Zealand footpath priority for pedestrians.

During the week of March 18 to 21 in Wellington the coalition had meetings with a number of agencies to raise our concerns. Including NZTAs Harry Wilson (Safety and Environment Director), Kathryn King and CEO Mark Ratcliffe, Maree Roberts, Mathew Parr, Mary-Ann Carter and Martin Dutton at the Ministry of Health, Wellington Mayor Justin Lester, MP Jacqui Dean, Ric Cullinane CEO of the Walking Access Commission, Laurianne Reinsborough at the Health Promotion Agency and Mike Noon CEO of the Automobile Association.

We presented them with our issues [and solutions that are on our website here.](#)

Walk2Work Day New Zealand

Walk2Work day was on Wednesday 13 March (seems such a long time ago already) and is New Zealand's day to celebrate walking. We had a great response with lots of folks out walking. Some people even took photos of their walk and we liked these ones so much that we want to give them a tee shirt -



Fleur Fitzsimmons out with a crowd said, these kids got moving early in Welly south on a grey day, cheered us up with bright raincoats and smiles

Christine Cheyne posted a whole video about why she likes to walk, with colleagues too. The video is [here on Facebook](#)

And that is a good place to leave our celebration of walking – walking is something you can do everyday, where ever you are.

Walking Summit, 20-21 June in Auckland's Viaduct Harbour.

Our second New Zealand Walking Summit is in Auckland on 20-21 June and this time will focus on two themes. On the first day we will look at the research and opportunities for children to walk to school and play. We will hear about successful initiatives in the UK to get kids walking and what is happening in New Zealand. And on the second day we look at the experience of walking and public transport for New Zealanders. We will shine a spotlight on two of the most sustainable modes that rarely get the exposure!

Walking is the glue that binds all these activities.

Programme details will come out soon but you can find the [costs and registration details here](#) so be in early.

Now a few links to articles of interest.

From Abley [Step by Step – Why walking matters](#)

Victoria Walks and Arup has released the report: [The Economic Case for Investment in Walking](#).

Keep an watch for [the video of this talk](#) on community severance on busy roads

Here are three articles from the [Guardian on walking the city](#)

From the Wired magazine – [Self Driving car developers should put Pedestrians first](#)

Does cutting [speed limits to 30kph actually work?](#)

What is happening in [Living Streets UK](#) to keep pavements for people

A [webinar from America Walks](#) on Partnering with the Disability Rights Movement

We think good data is important for good decision making – have you checked out the continuous 24 hour pedestrian counts in Auckland? Pedestrian activity is a key indicator of a city's vibrancy and vitality. Brought to us by [Heart of the City](#)

Has anyone read Jeff Specks new book ['Walkable City Rules'](#)? Want to do a review for us?