

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Wellington on the Greater Wellington Regional Council Proposed 10-Year Plan

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About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of LSA are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners e.g. walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

Living Streets Wellington is the local group based in the Wellington region which is working to make city and suburban centres in the region more walking-friendly.

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

Submission

Public Transport

We applaud the goal of providing a well-patronised public transport network that helps people get around the region easily and reduces road congestion. A good public transport system encourages people to leave their cars at home and walk, knowing they can use public transport for part of longer journeys, or for the return trip.

Points in the 10-year plan:

First bullet point - we believe there should be more emphasis on growing off-peak usage of PT

Second bullet point – we support improving the rail network, but this needs to be beyond the projects identified in RS1, including rail penetration through Wellington CBD.

Third bullet point – rail services should be improved ahead of patronage growth as part of the travel demand management process.

Fourth bullet point – the bus network needs to be improved, particularly in terms of reliability, extent and bus priority, but not at the expense of “poorly performing services”, which may be an integral part of the network.

Fifth bullet point – we support real-time information, electronic ticketing, and all other initiatives that make the network easier to use.

Seventh bullet point – we support removing the heavy subsidy that park and ride users receive, by charging for car parking and improving access by active modes.

Climate change

We support all the initiatives, particularly that of implementing the Regional Land Transport Strategy, with its emphasis on mode change and active and sustainable modes.

Regional Walking Plan

We would like the Regional Walking Strategy to be implemented quickly and effectively. In particular we would like the following actions to be carried out as soon as possible:

1. Improvements to the region’s railway stations as recommended by the pedestrian access audit reports
2. Continued support for the recently formed Regional Active Modes Forum
3. Strong advocacy by Greater Wellington for adequate funding from central government for the

Safe and pleasant walking/cycling routes, including the Great Harbour Way, need to be a high priority so that travel by active modes, for example between Petone and Wellington, is possible. At present there is no safe route by foot or cycle between the Hutt Valley and Wellington.

We would like to be heard in support of this submission.