



## Submission to Hamilton City Council Annual Plan 2008/2009

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### Comments:

This submission relates to Transport: Access Hamilton, pages 91 to 93 in the Proposed Annual Plan, and Community Outcomes 1 and 5, reiterated on page 171 of the Annual Plan 2008/2009 document: "Sustainable and Well-planned: An attractive city that is planned for the well-being of people and nature, now and in the future" and "Healthy and Happy: Active and healthy people with access to affordable facilities and services".

The deferral or reduced funding of proposed projects in areas such as Peachgrove Rd, Hukanui Rd, East St, Te Aroha St and Ruakura Rd suggests that very little expenditure on sustainable transport is proposed for the coming year.

**Living Streets Hamilton feels that Hamilton's transport system is still operating on a hierarchy that places the needs of vehicular traffic first, with cyclists and pedestrians at the bottom. In order to fulfil the requirements of the Community Outcomes in the LTCCP, we feel that attention must be paid to developing inner city systems which are much more active-transport oriented.**

Charles Landry, in his book *The Art of City Making* (2006), refers to statistics on walking and cycling in the USA and in Europe, where he specifically cites the US as one of the worst examples in the world. The US has a cycling and walking rate of 6.3% for urban transport, and an accompanying astronomical rate of obesity and obesity-related illness. New Zealand's is similar, at 6.7%. In Europe, walking and cycling account for 35 to 45% of trips, with accompanying benefits for health.

Mr Landry also quotes the experience of people living in towns designed under the umbrella of "New Urbanism" – these are small towns designed to provide all necessary facilities within walking distance. One telling comment from residents is that the main benefit has been to their children, who now have much more freedom than they ever had in larger cities which were perceived as much more dangerous. These children are free to walk and cycle to activities because their parents know they are safe on the roads.

Rather than ever-increasing expenditure on roading, perhaps we could look in another direction and focus on restoring the facilities that many suburbs have lost.

I do wish to speak about this submission at a council hearing.

I would be able to attend before 3pm on any of May 19, 20 or 21