

Living Streets Aotearoa



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New Zealand Walking Conference 2006

Getting There on Foot in NZ Cities and Towns – Taking the Next Steps

3 – 4 November 2006

ABSTRACT

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Phone number	486 8600 ext 8912	Fax Number	486 8510
Presentation topic	Sustainability of Walking School Buses		
Presentation title	Keeping Them Safe		
Presentation Style	Presentation <input type="checkbox"/>	Interactive Workshop <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Time Required	0-10 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	10-20 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	20-30 mins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Presentation Remit (500 word maximum)

Walking School Buses (WSBs) have been established in North Shore City since 2001. 28 out of a total of 47 primary schools now operate WSBs, which has resulted in 72 WSB routes with around 1076 children, over 400 volunteers and a conservative estimate of 556 less cars at school gates due to WSBs. The concept has been very successful and new WSBs are still being established.

Safety is a priority when establishing WSBs therefore all routes undergo a safety audit which involves a Road Safety Co-ordinator, an Engineer and in North Shore City we also have Police Education Officer involvement. However, once all the work to set up a WSB has been completed and the information has been passed on to the volunteers, ensuring WSBs remain sustainable is another issue. Why? The WSB volunteer work force is fluid and with parents coming and going inevitably information gets lost and safety can be compromised. Moreover, once a WSB has been established there is little chance for council to communicate with the volunteers. A few years down the track a route may become inactive for a period of time and when a new group of volunteers pick it up there can be little or no information available for them.

At North Shore City we have developed a number of sustainable safety initiatives and the aim of this workshop is to share these initiatives and to stimulate discussion for new ideas.