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**REAL PLANNING:** Douglas Park School students has spent the last two days taking part in a "Planning for Real" exercise in which they work on a large scale map of their community and identify their route to school and any issues they face. All the information is gathered and used along with the results of a school community survey to help a working party develop strategies to increase the number of students using active modes for their journey.

The Masterton school, in conjunction with Masterton District Council, Wairarapa Road Safety Council and Greater Wellington are developing a plan that will reduce the numbers of cars that travel to and from school each day.

Benefits of an initiative that promotes sustainable transport are felt right across the community: less congestion at the school gate; reduced pollution; health benefits; greater community cohesion; cost savings, and students arriving at school ready to learn.

Greater Wellington is working with schools, communities and local councils to introduce School Travel Plans to the region. A travel plan enables the whole school community to create safe and healthy ways for students to journey to and from school. Essentially a travel plan is a set of practical actions which aims to improve road safety and reduce car trips to and from school. The plan is developed and implemented by the whole school community in partnership with the local council, Greater Wellington and other experts in areas of health and road safety.

Douglas Park School is the first in the Wairarapa to take up the programme