

Active transport forum

May 19 2009

Pelorus Trust, Hutt Park Petone

Updates from members

[Living Streets Aotearoa](#)

### **Walk2Work 18<sup>th</sup> March**

- Two walk2work events we supported in the Wellington region at Frank Kitts Park and in Lower Hutt were well attended and blessed by good weather. This year was a partial roll out of walk2work, following the pilot in Wellington in 2008. There were events held in 12 locations around the country. The Dunedin event which involved commuters traveling into the city by special trains before their walk to the Octagon was on the TVNZ Breakfast Show and 6pm news. Planning is starting for a national roll out in 2010.

### **Walking Maps**

- Three lunchtime walking maps starting at different points in central Wellington have been printed and will be launched at a function at the beginning of June. These maps are available from Living Streets for employers to encourage staff to walk during their lunch hour. Living Streets' services include assisting agencies and community groups who want to produce their own walking maps and leaflets, or to run community street reviews or audits.

### **Walking Awards**

- Information about the inaugural walking awards is on the Living Streets website and has been sent out to agencies, organizations, consultants and others. The deadline for entries is 19<sup>th</sup> June, and the awards will be presented at a ceremony in Wellington in July.

### **Submissions**

- Living Streets branches in Wellington and around the country have been submitting on Councils' LTCCPs and RLTPs.

### **Living Streets branches**

- We are working with organisations in Lower Hutt to establish a Living Streets branch in the Hutt Valley. Our aim is to have a branch in each Council area in the Wellington region, working alongside its Council and other agencies to improve the walkability of communities and to get more people walking regularly

### **Great Harbour Way and the national cycleway**

- Living Streets is working with other groups to promote the Great Harbour Way, and to push for a walking/cycleway from Petone to Ngauranga on the seaward side of the railway line to be a priority for funding. We have also been working with cycling and other organizations on offering support for the national cycleway proposed at the Jobs Summit. The National Cycling Network in UK is used by as many walkers as cyclists. Living Streets has a copy of the inspirational book about the UK cycleway, which can be borrowed from our library.

# *The Golden Foot Awards*

## **New Zealand's National Walking Awards**

Living Streets Aotearoa is asking transport and health professionals to step up to the challenge and enter the new National Walking Awards.

These new industry awards will celebrate and recognise New Zealand achievements for walkers, by acknowledging innovative new facilities, highlighting national best practice and rewarding ongoing commitment by organisations. The awards are not just for private companies and public organisations, but will also reward not-for-profit groups and community organisations.

The categories are:

The New Zealand Best Practice walking Facility

Top commitment to walking by a New Zealand organisation

Consultancy Award for walking excellence in New Zealand

New Zealand Accessibility Innovation Award

Best New Zealand Walking Promotion

Best New Zealand Small Walking Project

The awards will showcase walking innovations and facilitate the sharing of new ideas across the country. The awards will be presented in a high profile ceremony in Wellington in July. By raising the profile of walking friendly infrastructure and promotions, it is hoped that future projects will give more consideration to walking friendly designs.

Living Streets Aotearoa is calling for people to nominate their top projects for the awards. Nominations close on 19<sup>th</sup> June. For information and entry forms visit [www.livingstreets.org.nz](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz) All nominators will go into a prize draw to receive a free pass to the 2010 Walking Conference.

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot, and working to develop walking-friendly communities throughout New Zealand. Living Streets exists because walking is the invisible form of transport, often overlooked or not integrated into transport, public health or land use planning.

## **NZTA report to AT Forum – May 2009**

### **National Policy**

NZTS/GPS revision released May/June with a focus on economic competitiveness. This will filter to changes in funding evaluation of transport projects.

Getting there: on foot, by cycle is the National Strategy for walking and cycling:

- Guides Regional Policy/Strategy

### **Regional Policy**

RLTS required by Land Transport Act which sets out the transport visions and objectives for the region:

- Regional Cycling Plan (December 2008)  
[http://www.gw.govt.nz/story\\_images/5938\\_CyclingPlan2wit\\_s11794.pdf](http://www.gw.govt.nz/story_images/5938_CyclingPlan2wit_s11794.pdf)
- Regional Walking Plan (October 2008)  
[http://www.gw.govt.nz/story\\_images/5770\\_WalkingPlanwith\\_s11453.pdf](http://www.gw.govt.nz/story_images/5770_WalkingPlanwith_s11453.pdf)
- RCA strategies and implementation plans sit within these.
- RLTP submissions closed on 24 April

### **National Initiatives**

#### **Feet First**

Feet First is a flexible year-long project designed to help primary schools promote walking in fun and unusual ways.

The new website ([www.feetfirst.govt.nz](http://www.feetfirst.govt.nz)) went live on February 6, 2009. Since then 363 schools have enrolled. This captures some 140,000 students. The statistics from the new website tell us that we've had about 4,000 unique, 220,000 hits and about 30,000 downloads of the walk to school curriculum unit plans. To date schools have uploaded 44 active travel stories and 74 walk to school images to our website.

In addition to school led walking programmes there are also 41 local walk to school promotions covering all regions of New Zealand. The NZTA is pleased to see good participation from the West Coast of the South Island a region that had not been involved previously. There are also two Kura Kaupapa Maori Schools fully participating in the programme.

NZTA is now reviewing and updating the school based material around School Travel Plans and Walking School Bus guidelines.

## **Bike Wise**

Bike Wise is a national cycling promotion programme that ran throughout the month of February.

Once again the Bike Wise Battle was the biggest yet with 663 organisations and 2,683 departments competing nationwide to get the highest percentage of their staff members to ride a bike. The Battle resulted in Kiwis cycling over two million kilometres.

New Plymouth DC won the large-size council Mayoral Challenge. Central Hawke's Bay District Council won the mid-sized council competition and Opotiki DC took out the trophy for small-sized council category. It was great to see over 50 councils competing for this year's title.

This Bike Wise team is now completing an evaluation of the Bike Wise programme with the results expected by the end of May.

## **Economic Business Case for Walking and Cycling**

The NZTA is currently developing a resource to collate the economic evidence that supports further integration of walking and cycling into transport networks. The business case will be a freely available web-based resource that is likely to be online within the next three months.

Areas of investigation include: examining walking and cycling within a value for money framework, assessing walking and cycling's contribution to network efficiency and productivity, average direct opportunity costs associated with parking, agglomeration and transport modes, economic efficiencies achieved through more integrated planning, the economic impacts of the industry (including factors like tourism and events), relationship between urban design/access to walking and cycling facilities and residential and retail property values. We are also looking at personal impacts like travel costs and savings. We will advise this forum when the resource goes live.

Funding policy for walking and cycling activities changed in Jan 2009, providing increased economic benefits for walking and cycling.

## **Roads of National Significance**

SH1 from Levin to Wellington is a Road of National Significance. RONS are a new government initiative being developed to improve movement of freight, and safety. The definitions of RONS are currently being developed.

## **Regional Issues**

NZTA publish safety issues reports every year that summarise the previous 5 years of crash data. They are published on <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/performance/index.html>

Data for 2004-2008 will be released July 2009.

## **SH Infrastructure**

### **Walking and Cycling strategy**

This is under development and will be presented at next meeting.

We've visited all Council's (bar WCC) to get lists of projects in the pipeline or those they would like to see completed. From here we will develop a prioritised action plan and policy words early in 2009/10. Appendix 1 details current and forecast strategy implementations.

### **Appendix 1 SH Implementation Plan**

#### **SH1 Corridor**

##### *Corridor strategy*

Essentially driven by RONS. Unsure of detail at this stage.

##### *Current improvements*

1. SH1 Lindale cycling facilities on Lindale straight are due to be completed in mid May. Cycle lanes across intersection on/off ramps and the service station.

##### *Forecast improvements*

1. Elizabeth St, Waikanae - Improving the current signal facilities to give pedestrians better protection ear marked for 2009/10 implementation.
2. Discussion point – Any views from the cyclists on extending the SH1 Motorway status north by one intersection (from Mungavin to the ramp near Parumopana St)?

#### **SH2/SH58 Corridor**

##### *Corridor strategy*

Currently being drafted. Submissions welcome in May/June.

##### *Current improvements*

1. SH2 Cycling improvement – The first sign was tested on 24<sup>th</sup> April and works satisfactorily. Next will be the cutting the loops for the electronic signs and road markings at Petone off ramp (early May) and green surfacing. The electronic cycle activated signs will be switched on in mid May after some road user education for all road users on SH2 in this area to explain the electronic signs, green surfacing etc.

Towards the end of May we will be setting out the Petone on ramp.

The next phase of the SH2 cycling improvements (phase 2) is being designed jointly with HCC this covers Petone overbridge, roundabout on the Esplanade and off road access ramp railway station to Petone on ramp due for construction early May.

2. SH58 more seal widening near the guardrail section.

#### *Forecast improvements*

1. SH2 Buchanan Place - Remarking the intersection new pro cycling layout IN May.
2. SH2 Tirohanga Rd – Pedestrian facilities to be improved under minor safety in 2009/10.

#### Regional Public Health

Workplace health programme: Pilot programme is up and running at RPH and Porirua WINZ office. Aim of the programme is to work alongside targeted workplaces throughout Wellington region to improve employee health through physical activity, smoke-free, nutrition and mental well-being initiatives.

Building healthy public policy: Recently consultations for the advocacy for an improved physical environment for walking and cycling and public transport have included LTCCP for Wellington, Hutt City and Porirua City Councils.

Hutt City and Porirua City Walking User Groups: Supporting Living Streets Aotearoa with the introduction of Walking User Groups in the Hutt Valley and Porirua region.

HVDHB travel planning: Continual work in progress for more cycling facilities within Hutt Hospital. Working alongside Hutt City Council to enhance pedestrian linkages through signs between train stations and bus stops with the hospital.

Introduction of a HVDHB Bike Users Group (BUG) and Staff Car-Sharing scheme for employees.

WRRIG (Wellington Region Recreation Initiative Group): Working collaboratively with a range of agencies for the implementation of Wellington Urban Region Physical Activity Strategy - At the Heart.

#### Greater Wellington

##### *1) Climate change*

The various councils in the Wellington region are working collaboratively on developing a shared regional response to climate change. This work is being coordinated through the Greater Wellington Regional Council by Alison Lash. An analysis of the region's greenhouse gas emissions for 2006/07 showed that our energy footprint was 62% of the total or 2.35 M tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (an average of 5 tonnes per head). 57% of all the energy emissions relate to transport (36% of the total emissions for the region for that year). This tells us that effective measures to reduce emissions in this area could have significant impacts on our efforts to mitigate climate change

effects through emissions reduction. Any comments or ideas you or your group might have on this would be welcomed by Alison Lash. Her contact details are: [alison.lash@gw.govt.nz](mailto:alison.lash@gw.govt.nz). A draft plan will result from the work of the regional group and formal input from the community will be sought on it, probably early in 2010.

## *2) Cyclist skills training*

In Term One, 36 students from Redwood School in Tawa completed their Level 1 training with Cog Cycling following the new NZTA guidelines. On 14 May Level 2 training will begin for Redwood Students. Wilford School in Petone is expected to start Level 1 training later this term.

## *3) Cycling and Walking Journey Planner*

The project is progressing well with the draggable routing and elevation functions now completed. GW is now meeting individually with TA's starting with Wellington City Council to ensure we have the most up to date spatial data and for the council's to make decisions around specific data issues and features related to their areas. The journey planner uses Terralink road network data as the base database coupled with TA track and utility spatial data to enrich the information the journey planner provides. Upon merging the sets of data, duplicate and unconnected tracks become evident and TA's will be asked to review these anomalies.

In addition, TA's will be asked to make decisions around the treatment of special features for walking tracks such as lifts and private roads as well as detail on shared use paths and public features, facilities and amenities.

GW will be contacting TA's and setting up meetings over the next few weeks to ensure we are getting the most up to date spatial data and information related to each local area in addition to developing appropriate processes for annual data updates.

## *4) Feet First*

41 schools registered throughout the region. Developing a Walking Wednesday Challenge concept for Wairarapa.

## *5) School travel plans*

At present the programme, run by school travel plan co-ordinators based at Greater Wellington, Kapiti Coast District and Hutt City Councils, has 24 schools enrolled, which exceeds the 2008/09 target. Collectively these schools have over 7, 900 students.

Students' modes of travel are monitored in two ways; a parent survey, which records their children's "usual" mode of travel to school, is conducted before the programme begins and again after the first year, and a class survey, which records children's actual mode of travel to school for one week is conducted before the programme begins and every year thereafter.

To date four schools have completed the first year evaluation and one school has completed the second year evaluation. Results to date are based on 1301 parent surveys and 10, 536 days of student travel data.

Parents reported a 5.9% increase in the number of children who walked as their main mode of travel to school, and a 5.4% decrease in number of children whose main mode of travel to school was in the family car. It is encouraging to see that the parent survey results are fairly congruent with the mode change observed in the class survey. The mode shares of the class survey showed a 3.8% increase in the actual number of trips to school walked in one week, and a 2.4% decrease in the number of trip to school in the family car.

The Wellington Regions School Travel Plan programme mascot, a young kākā named Jack, was launched at Carterton School in late 2008 and has since visited five schools and appeared in various media. The kākā is popular with children and provides a great way to boost students' interest in active and sustainable travel while providing a brand identity for the programme.

#### Kapiti Coast District Council

Project completion;

Eastern Link Road or the Ngahina Street Bypass – (May have been discussed last forum)

Otaihanga Access Track formation and sealing

Otaihanga Road shared path extension – Mansell corner extension (completed this week weather permitting)

Share the Road signs Kapiti Road

Cycle crowns at Paraparaumu Station

Projects deferred until next financial year;

Lighting Otaki Railway carpark and shared path.

#### Upper Hutt City Council

1. Intermediate Cyclist of the Year for years 7-8 was held last month. All four eligible schools attended. Special mention to Fergusson Intermediate who cycled to the event as a team.

2. The Young Cyclist of the Year competition for Years 3-6 is to be held 6 May 2009.

3. The Upper Hutt LTCCP currently out for consultation. Map of proposed projects attached (apologies for the large size, any smaller and the detail is lost). Public consultation finishes on the 15th of May, so any interested groups who wish to support or comment on any of the cycling projects need to do so before the meeting.

See also attached pdf of cycling initiatives from UHCC's Long term council community plan



## Hutt City Council

- 👤 Feet First – March 2009
- 👤 Walk 2 Work day – free breakfast outside HCC, Laings Road 7-9am, March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 👤 Install signalised pedestrian crossing at Railway Avenue (HCC) – Puffin PedX pending agreement from NZTA launch on 8<sup>th</sup> of May.
- 👤 Ongoing delivery of pedestrian ‘stop, look, live’ campaign – now with billboards.
  
- 👤 New ped Xing on Stokes Valley Rd at Scott Court shops
- 👤 Reviewed ped xing markings & signage- instructions issued to roadmarker & signs contractor as required.
- 👤 PUFFIN Trail is fully approved and will launch at 2:30pm Friday 8<sup>th</sup> may 2009. (1<sup>st</sup> ever in NZ).
- 👤 Ongoing School travel Plans and Walking School bus programmes within Hutt City.
- 🚲 Stop bank lighting commenced
- 🚲 Petone over bridge/interchange improvements underway.
- 🚲 Implementation of cycling network programme 0-r remarking of cycle lanes.
- 🚲 Agreement reached with GWRC & Rotary about Hutt River Trail, mixed use for Commuters and Recreational cycling & walking

### Hutt City upcoming events:

- 🚲 Run a cycle helmet/lights campaign education and enforcement – now postponed till late May/Early June.
- 🚲 Looking at children’s festival in July – delivery of cycle programme/activities
  
- 👤 Looking at distraction youth-focused pedestrian campaign for 09/10

Upcoming opportunities to provide feedback on plans and policy documents with implications for cycling and walking

## Porirua City Council

### Update on current projects

a) Ara Harakeke Pathway - 500 metre of new pathway 2.6m wide installed from Pascoe Avenue in Ngatitua Domain, Mana - north to Sand dunes

- b) Ara Harakeke Pathway - 600 metres of new chipseal sealed pathway created 2.6m wide from sand dunes to South Beach Road, Plimmerton.
- c) New directional signage installed at Plimmerton Domain and at Plimmerton shops for Ara Harakeke and to identify where underpass is
- d) New pathway under construction at Pauatahanui Village to improve pedestrian access through the village outside the Light house theatre.
- e) New directional signage installed highlighting underpass route to Whitby from Pauatahanui village.
- f) New bollards to be installed in Pauatahanui Village deterring cars from parking on footpath through village
- g) Upgrade of pathway from Village to Grays Road underway.
- h) New seat being installed Pukerua Bay end of Ara Harakeke Pathway
- i) Camborne Walkway upgrade nearly completed
- j) Colonial Knob walkway upgrade completed
- k) Te Araroa have installed way finding signage through City for their pathway
- l) Upgrade of South Beach Road, Plimmerton to improve pathway quality for Ara Harakeke users to commence this month.