

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Councillors

Copy: CLT and Community Board members

From: Marian Radu, Project Manager for HCC and Jared Humm, Project Manager for WSP

Date: 13 July 2021

SUBJECT: HUTT CITY COUNCIL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY - PROJECT UPDATE

Why are we doing a Strategy?

Hutt City Council's transport strategy currently sits across a variety of plans and strategies at all levels of government. The development of an Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) will provide clarity and direction by creating an overarching document to guide and inform Council's other transport plans and decision-making.

Strategy development is being informed by stakeholder insights and technical assessments. It is identifying issues and opportunities as well as highlighting the trade-offs that may be involved in addressing them. The Transport Strategy will guide decision making and planning processes to meet the ongoing needs of people and communities.

What progress have we made: Phase A – Public and Stakeholder opinion, and technical assessment

The first phase of work in developing the ITS was to undertake a data analysis, review existing policy at all levels of government, obtain community insights and discuss the project with key stakeholders. These tasks were undertaken from February to June 2021 and consisted of:

- Reviewing transport and related policy documents at national, regional, and local levels and identifying key themes and drivers.
- Data analysis of demographics, travel behaviour, and other key indicators to give more context to the transport issues facing Hutt City (i.e. public transport operational issues, congestion hot spots, growth trends, etc)
- Engagement with stakeholders and the community to understand people's experience using the transport network in Hutt City. This consisted of the following actions:
 - Emailing a letter from the Mayor to key stakeholders and networks outlining the Strategy, its purpose, and seeking engagement
 - One-on-one meetings with identified key stakeholders
 - Email and phone engagement with other stakeholders
 - An online survey and feedback tool

- Pop-up events to engage with the community and promote the online survey
- Social media and traditional media to raise awareness, seek feedback, and provide information on the online survey
- Delivering a draft engagement summary report.

What themes have emerged?

The work to-date has identified a number of key issues that are driving a need for change. These include higher than expected population growth, network constraints along key corridors and at intersections, car dependency, safety, and a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mode shift was highlighted by respondents to the on-line survey and was also mentioned by many of the stakeholders. Community and Stakeholder feedback indicated that inadequate public transport connections or safe active transport connections are barriers to travel without a car. A desire for road safety improvements and changes to public transport frequency and coverage, ease of use, and affordability are other key themes that were raised by many.

Next steps: Phase B – Challenges and Opportunities

Phase B, during July/August 2021, will involve working with Council officers to identify possible strategic interventions to address the issues and opportunities that have been identified. Most issues or opportunities can be addressed in different ways. For example, congestion can be addressed by encouraging people to change their travel behaviour or by increasing road capacity. There are different implications associated with each approach.

The acceptability of strategic interventions will also vary according location and situation. The implications of reallocating road space to provide bus priority or safer cycle routes may include reduce traffic capacity and reductions in on-street parking. This may be acceptable in some circumstances but not others.

Work during Phase B will identify the implications of possible strategic interventions and seek to be transparent about the trade-offs involved changing the transport system and travel behaviour.

Phase C – Priorities and Trade-offs

The next stage of stakeholder and community engagement, during August/September 2021, will focus on priorities and trade-offs. It will communicate the key issues, the opportunities and the possible strategic interventions. Engagement will be designed to communicate the trade-offs associated with change and explore the acceptability of the implications with different parts of the community.

What we still have to do: Phases D & E – Stakeholder workshops and drafting the Strategy

Phase D of the project will include targeted workshops with city stakeholders and with Councillors to share the findings of our research and to seek feedback on the emerging Transport Strategy. We plan to deliver a draft Strategy by mid December 2021 (Phase E). The Strategy will be subject to formal public consultation in the 2022.

Jared Humm

WSP, Project Manager