

Report 13.656
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Committee Regional Transport Committee
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School Travel Plan final report 2009-12

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with information about the travel to school patterns of children in the Wellington region, attending schools with travel plans.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report as it is updating the Committee on school travel activities in the region.

3. Background

The School Travel Plan (STP) Programme is a joint-partnership between schools, local councils and Greater Wellington Regional Council. It supports school communities in developing and implementing action plans that improve road safety and promote active and sustainable travel to and from school. The programme has received funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) since 2006.

The Wellington Region Land Transport Strategy 2010-2040 sets the following target for the school travel programme:

“94, or 41%, of primary and secondary/intermediate schools and 26,761, or 34% of school children exposed to school travel plan activities by June 2013.”

Each council with a School Travel Plan coordinator has established a Memorandum of Agreement with the Regional Council to increase the number of schools in the programme in their respective area.

School age children are over-represented in the region's road safety casualty statistics. In 2009-2012, 10-14 year olds and 15-19 year olds were the second and third most common age groups in cyclist and pedestrian casualties respectively.

4. School Travel Plan report 2009-12

This report presents information about the travel to school patterns of children, in the Wellington region, attending schools with travel plans. It looks at how children travel to school, how far children have to travel to school and perceptions of route safety. The report also includes regional road safety information for children of primary and secondary school age.

This report also presents results for the regional level participation in the STP programme. Up to the end of the 2012 school year, there were 26 schools that had completed class baseline and evaluation travel surveys. The data from these schools is presented in this report to look at the travel to school changes for those schools that have implemented STP activities.

The full report is set out in **Attachment 1** to this report.

5. Key messages from the report

From December 2012, 66 Wellington region schools with a combined roll of 22,807 school children¹ have, or are developing STPs. This includes 61 primary and intermediate schools and five secondary schools. The number of schools enrolled in the STP programme is tracking just below target, whereas the number of students in the region exposed to STP activities is tracking just above the target for the programme. To keep on target, growth in the number of schools participating in the STP programme will be required over the next year.

The largest increases in active modes are observed in Wellington City, where active mode use at participating schools has increased from 35% in 2006-2011 to 46% in 2009-2012, and car use has decreased from 61% to 50%.

Analysis of class survey information from 2009-2012 shows that 74% of children are driven to school at least once a week, with 28% of being driven five times a week, and 46% being driven between one and four times a week.

The results tell us that the closer someone lives to a school, and the older a student is the more likely they are to use active modes to travel to school. In addition, the group that we have seen the most mode shift in is the group living 2-5km from school.

There has been an increase in active mode travel to school (from 24% in 2006-2009 to 27% in 2009-2012) and a decrease in travel to school by car (from 62% in 2006-2009 to 57% in 2009-2012) for primary/intermediate age children.

¹ Based on July 2012 roll counts from the Ministry of Education school roll returns.

There has been a significant increase in travel to these schools by active modes and a significant decrease in travel by car. Although older students are more likely to travel to school by active modes, it is the younger students who have experienced the largest increases in active mode use between the baseline and evaluation measurements.

Since the introduction of the STP programme, at the 26 schools that have participated in evaluation surveys, it is estimated that at a minimum there has been an increase of around 315 active mode trips and a decrease of around 100 car trips² to these schools each morning for students living within 5km of their school.

Over the 2009-2012 period, around 57% of travel to school, for primary/intermediate age children in the region, was by car (family car or friend's car), 39% was by active modes (walk, cycle, scooter or skateboard), and 4% was by public transport (bus, train and ferry). Over the last 6 years, the STP data shows that there has been an increase in active mode travel to school (from 24% in 2006-2009 to 27% in 2009-2012) and a decrease in travel to school by car (from 62% in 2006-2009 to 57% in 2009-2012) for primary/intermediate age children.

Movin'March 2013 was the Wellington region's fourth annual active travel week for schools. This year's Movin'March promotion focused on getting active and being safe on the way to school as a community. Thirty nine schools with over 10,000 children registered to participate this year.

6. Next steps

The Regional Council will work with the School Travel Plan coordinators to increase the numbers of schools in the programme within their areas.

7. Communication

This report will be sent to all School Travel Plan coordinators and placed on the Regional Council website.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

² Car trip estimates assume there are two children in every car. This is likely to result in an underestimate as there are usually less than two children per car.

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Attachment 1: School Travel Plan Programme: Regional Analysis Report 2009-2012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gw.govt.nz/schooltravelplans

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