

Report 14.104  
Date 27 February 2014  
File ST/08/01/05

Committee Council  
Author Simon Kennett, Active Transport and Road Safety  
Coordinator

## Proposed submission on the Wellington City Council's Central City Safer Speed Limit Proposal

### 1. Purpose

To seek the Council's endorsement of the proposed feedback to the Wellington City Council's Central City Safer Speed Limit Proposal.

### 2. Background

Wellington City Council proposes to reduce the speed limit in much of the central city from 50 km/h to 30 km/h in order to reduce the number and severity of crashes in the CBD.

Wellington's central city has the highest level of pedestrian traffic in New Zealand as well as a high number of vehicle movements, and therefore a higher likelihood of conflict between these different road users. Vehicular speed, particularly speed at impact, is widely recognised as one of the most important predictors of pedestrian and cyclist injury severity or fatality<sup>1</sup>.

<http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-input/public-inputs/consultations/open/central-city-safer-speed-limit>

The submission period closes on 9 March 2014.

### 3. Comment

The recommended submission is included as **Attachment 1** to this report.

The key feedback points in the submission are:

---

<sup>1</sup> University of Washington and US Department of Transportation (February 2007) Research Report: Managing Pedestrian Safety I: Injury Severity

- GWRC believes this proposal will have significant safety benefits
- GWRC believes this proposal will have a marginal effect on mean motor vehicle speeds in the central city
- GWRC supports Wellington City’s safer speeds proposal.

#### **4. Communication**

The approved submission will be sent to Wellington City Council for its consideration.

#### **5. The decision-making process and significance**

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

##### **5.1 Significance of the decision**

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington to consider the significance of the decision. The term ‘significance’ has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance as the decision relates to feedback from the Council to another organisation (NZ Transport Agency) who will make the final decisions in relation to the subject proposal.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Approves the submission set out in Attachment 1 to this report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Simon Kennett**

Active Transport and  
Road Safety Coordinator,  
Sustainable Transport

**Melanie Thornton**

Manager, Sustainable  
Transport

**Jane Davis**

General Manager, Strategy and  
Community Engagement

**Attachment 1:** GWRC Submission on Wellington City Council's Central City Safer Speed Limit Proposal.