

Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan

Survey questions

1. Do the key themes captured here reflect your thoughts on our region's transport network?*

Partly

2. If you answered "partly" or "not at all", please tell us why?

Internationally there is a growing acceptance that transport is a key health determinant in relation to equitable health outcomes. This makes sense as transport is key to accessing almost all services that support daily living, such as education, employment, nutrition, and social activities. Also, active modes of transport can contribute to a reduction in long term conditions, such as Type 2 Diabetes, and improving safety can reduce injury events.

Transport planning decisions have the potential to positively address equity or exacerbate inequity. There are a small number of localities in the greater Wellington region where the neighbourhoods experience extreme disadvantage. It is our experience that the voices of people living in such neighbourhoods tend not to be heard through the usual consultation processes.

Although we support the range of key themes identified, we are concerned that the voices that have influenced the content of the themes are from more articulate, advantaged communities. Without effective engagement with less advantaged communities, there is the risk that transport decisions may have unintended consequences that may exacerbate inequity.

RPH recommends that GWRC place greater emphasis on equity across the themes through targeted engagement with less advantaged neighbourhoods.

The Regional Land Transport Plan 2021 provides a unique opportunity to plan for and implement a suite of transport solutions that enable everyone access to reliable and affordable public and active transport, regardless of their life circumstances.

Regional Public Health (RPH) would welcome a meeting with relevant policy officers and planners to further discuss the integration of social equity into transport planning processes in the early New Year.

3. Are there any other comments you would like to make on the key themes or the strategic direction of the Wellington Regional Transport Plan?

Of the themes summarised by GWRC, RPH believes strong emphasis and investment should be made towards prioritising public and active transport. These forms of transport have the co-benefits of reducing carbon emissions, supporting health and wellbeing, and enhancing the connectivity and vibrancy of our communities.

We also support the implementation of more connected public transport routes so that those in peripheral areas have reliable, affordable and sustainable options for accessing employment, education, social activities, and other amenities, without relying on a vehicle. We strongly support the development of more dedicated and safer cycle-ways, pedestrian spaces, and the use of e-bikes, e-scooters, electric buses and trains providing affordable and attractive alternatives to vehicle use.