

**26. SUBMISSION ON MOT: 'GETTING THERE - ON FOOT, BY CYCLE' A DRAFT STRATEGY TO INCREASE WALKING AND CYCLING IN NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT**

<b>Officer responsible</b> Unit Manger, City Streets	<b>Author</b> Jo Spencer, Senior Policy Planner - Transport, DDI 941-8816
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The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention the 'Getting there - on foot, by cycle', October 2003 document prepared by the Ministry of Transport (MOT) (a draft national strategy developed to increase the use of walking and cycling in day-to-day travel for New Zealanders), and to propose a means to enable a submission to be prepared and submitted in response.

'Getting there - on foot, by cycle' has resulted from the New Zealand Transport Strategy (NZTS), a document which made a commitment to developing a national strategy for walking and cycling. The NZTS recognises that different modes of transport can contribute to meeting travel demand in different ways, and that having a transport system that works for all modes will enable us to achieve the widest range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

This draft strategy (which can be found on the internet at (<http://www.transport.govt.nz/business/land/getting-there/walk-cycle-strategy-071003.doc>) has been developed by the Ministry and sets out a framework for encouraging more people to walk and cycle more often throughout the country. It is also a first for New Zealand in terms of providing a central government strategic direction for walking and cycling, and *"articulates the government's vision of New Zealand where people from all sectors of the community choose to walk and cycle for both transport and enjoyment - helping to ensure a healthier population, more lively and connected communities and a more affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable transport system"*.

This draft strategy is therefore designed to maximise the contribution of these modes towards achieving the objectives of the NZTS. It proposes a strategy for achieving these objectives that will:

- Support effective, integrated and co-ordinated action for walking and cycling;
- Help to inform future decision making by central government, and guide the work of its agencies;
- Guide the development of the detailed implementation plans that will give effect to the strategy at a national level; and
- Act as an important point of reference for those working regionally and locally, as they plan and undertake action for walking and cycling.

This document is also closely aligned with the preparation and development of the Land Transport Safety Authorities recent 'Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Framework' draft consultation document, a document which sets out a comprehensive approach to improving the safety of pedestrians and cyclists through the use of best practise safety mechanisms (ie the safety policy detail behind the 'Getting there - on foot, by cycle' draft Strategy). A report on this draft framework was provided at the last Sustainable Transport and Utilities committee meeting on 7 November 2003 and a submission on it has subsequently been completed and submitted.

It is important for the Council to provide comments and feedback to MOT in the form of a submission as it is intended that, once finalised, the strategic framework identified in the draft strategy will be used to guide the development of detailed strategy implementation plans at a national level, as well as providing a 'benchmark' or point of reference for the ongoing development of new and existing strategies at both a regional and local level. The MOT recognises that most of the action for walking and cycling needs to occur at the regional and local levels, therefore providing input to the draft strategy is important in ensuring the Council's issues and concerns are raised and responded to. A submission will also reinforce awareness of the wealth of information and experience available at the local level, especially here in Christchurch.

The closing date for submissions is the 19 December 2003. As it was not possible to convene a seminar on this matter prior to the Committee meeting to consider the detail and structure of the draft strategy and a possible response, it is proposed to convene a Land Transport Subcommittee meeting in early December to achieve this. It is also proposed to finalise the Council submission to be sent to the Ministry of Transport at this meeting, prior to 19 December 2003.

**Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Land Transport Subcommittee is convened to consider a presentation on the structure and content of the draft strategy and to finalise a submission to the MOT at the earliest opportunity.
  2. That Councillor Chrissie Williams, due to her role as Chair of the Cycle Steering Group, is invited to attend this meeting.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.