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Corporate Plan Output: Transportation Policy	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the development of a pedestrian strategy for Christchurch and give the opportunity for input into the process

INTRODUCTION

Walking is possible for almost everyone, regardless of income, age, or location and has many advantages for all of us, especially for access and recreation. However walking has the disadvantages of limited distance, feelings of a lack of security, especially at night, susceptibility to the surrounding environment (eg vehicle noise, fumes, and weather), time constraints, and difficulty of carrying loads any distance.

There are many pedestrians in Christchurch and the City is ideally suited for pedestrians. However there is no strategic policy to deal with pedestrian issues and work to meet the needs of people on foot in the City.

WHY A PEDESTRIAN STRATEGY?

The Council, through a number of statutory processes and resource allocations, has made a commitment to pedestrians.

These commitments include:

- The City Plan in Volume Two, Chapter 7 contains a specific objective relating to Pedestrians; “7.5 *The safe movement of pedestrians in a pleasant environment*”.
- The Annual Plan refers to Pedestrians in the Strategic Objectives in Volume 1 and the City Streets Unit objectives are derived from these.

The pedestrian strategy would help to provide direction and assist to coordinate implementation by giving a framework to planning and including legislative and “best practice” methods. The pedestrian strategy would also fill one of the “missing links” in terms of transportation strategies. The Council now has strategies for Central City Parking, Cycling, Public Transport, and Road Safety, but nothing that directly addresses pedestrians and implements the Council’s intentions.

STRATEGY PROCESS

The key objectives for the process are:

- To involve the public in identifying and planning for pedestrian needs and desires around the City.
- To investigate ways to meet community needs related to walking and make the City a more “pedestrian friendly” and safe place.
- To encourage walking as a recreational activity.

As a part of the initial data gathering process, focus groups were carried out during January and February 1999. These focus groups looked specifically at key issues eg. Children, elderly, and safety, as well as general needs for access, recreation, and development. A public advisory group has been made up of people with a variety of viewpoints. This group has created a vision and a set of goals and are now working to develop a series of implementation actions (research, programmes, projects, etc) for the strategy. Staff are also involved in carrying out research and are part of the work to create a national pedestrian infrastructure document and a national pedestrian advocacy group.

The aim is to have a draft document available in early November for submissions and to complete this process with adoption of the strategy early in 2000.

Staff would like to gain the board members' views on the strategic needs of pedestrians in their area and the issues that should be included in the strategy and any concepts or projects that could improve pedestrian movements around the Boards area.

Recommendation: For discussion.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** For discussion.