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A voice for Kiwi cyclists

Delegates from New Zealand's cycling community gathered in Napier recently to share ideas and recognise achievements in the promotion of cycling.



Left to right: Napier Mayor Barbara Arnott and Transport Minister Annette King took time out from the conference to show how easy it was to ride a bicycle built for two.

The New Zealand Cycling – Getting There by Bike Conference offered a mix of practical and technical sessions, with examples of projects at the local government level. The biennial conference is the creation of the Cycling Advocates' Network (CAN), the national organisation promoting everyday cycling to create a cycle-friendly environment in New Zealand. This year's conference was sponsored by Land Transport NZ.

A keynote speaker at the conference was Dr Bob Chauncey, Director of Policy Analysis for the National Center for Bicycling and Walking in America. Mr Chauncey told the conference that communities should take more notice of walking and cycling, as active modes make better economic sense than driving. For example, bike and pedestrian trails are cheaper to build and maintain than roads, and property prices are generally higher in communities where people walk and cycle more.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the 2007 SPARC Cycle Friendly Awards by the Minister of Transport, Hon Annette King. There were 47 nominations for five award categories.

2007 SPARC Cycle Friendly Awards winners

Avanti Award for Best Cycle Facility Project

Transit New Zealand took out this award for the Basin Reserve Cycle/Pedestrian Crossing project in Wellington. This project was responsible for providing light-controlled crossings for cyclists and pedestrians at key parts of the Basin, making it easy and safe for cyclists to use the Reserve as a pleasant, off-road section of their journey. The introduction of more light-controlled intersections around the Basin has also improved safety for cyclists using the roadway.

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Land Transport NZ Award for Best Cycling Promotion

Massey University's PR Team won for 'On Ya Bike.' This award recognises the initiative that has had the most significant impact on promoting cycling and a cycle-friendly environment. Building on existing campaigns, using creative tactics and a comprehensive media strategy, the Massey team addressed significant gaps to make cycling a more attractive alternative to driving in Palmerston North.

Land Transport NZ Award for Cycle-Friendly Commitment by Business

MWH New Zealand Ltd was awarded this for Green Kilometres on 'pool' bikes. This award is for the private company that has made significant strides in the past year to encourage and support cycling by its staff and customers/

clients. This category includes both general business and those directly involved in the bicycle industry. The team at MWH Christchurch purchased two 'pool' bikes that staff can now choose to use instead of company vehicles when travelling to meetings or running errands.

ViaStrada Award for Cycle-Friendly Commitment by a Public Organisation

The Nelson City Council won for Pedalling Along. The city council has made cycling a safe, convenient and commonplace way of getting around Nelson by adopting a cycle strategy and an integrated approach that uses engineering, enforcement and encouragement. Examples of this include a financial commitment of \$2.6 million in the next five years, and hosting regional cycle forums and road safety action plans with an emphasis on cycling.

Roger Boulter Consulting Award for Cycling Champion of the Year

Tama Easton, VORB owner/director and editor of Spoke magazine took out this award. Tama started the vorb.org.nz website in 2000 to champion all forms of cycling in New Zealand. It now attracts close to 50,000 unique visitors and over 1.5 million page views per month, and was the recipient in 2007 of a Netguide Award for best sports site.

Land Transport NZ Senior Advisor, Walking and Cycling Gerry Dance was a judge for the awards. 'There were some wonderful entries and it was great to see such a range of quality projects and the overall commitment to progressing cycling in New Zealand,' Gerry says.

For more information about the awards, go to <http://can.org.nz/Awards/>.

New rule makes car pooling easier

The Operator Licensing Rule, introduced in October this year, has cleared the way for car-pooling programmes and other initiatives aimed at encouraging the shared use of vehicles and reducing costs, congestion and fuel consumption.

Land Transport NZ Licensing Manager Kevin O'Kane says one of the most frequently asked questions about these programmes is, 'What is the legal situation around sharing the cost of travel?'

The rule makes a clear distinction between 'cost-sharing arrangements' and commercial passenger services such as taxis, trains or buses. The rule clarifies that passenger service licences are not required for genuine car-pooling activity, where the running costs are shared between the driver and the passengers but no-one is making a living from providing the transport.

Changes introduced with the rule have also addressed the concerns of taxi operators and bus companies that unlicensed people might make a living from car-pooling arrangements by providing a de facto taxi service but avoiding all the associated compliance costs.

Previous rule

Prior to 1 October, the legislation stated that only cost-sharing arrangements between occupants of a vehicle travelling to and from their place of employment or business were exempt from commercial licensing requirements. Provisions in the Operator Licensing Rule clarify that car pooling can now legally be used for any purpose, as long as the vehicle size and the payments made by passengers fit within the new provisions.

Size does matter

The rule allows any cost-sharing arrangements between occupants of a vehicle designed or adapted to carry 12 or fewer persons (including the driver). This means cars or vans can be used for car pooling, but not buses.

Reasonable costs

The rule clarifies that a driver in a car-pooling situation may be paid for shared costs (ie fuel and vehicle wear and tear), but the driver may not be paid for his or her time.



Procurement review

Smart buying and better value for money

Value for money is something every business strives for and they often have their own unique way of achieving it.

Getting value for money has huge importance for an organisation like Land Transport NZ, which allocates around \$2.5 billion worth of land transport funding annually via the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP).

The bulk of this funding is allocated to approved organisations (territorial and regional local authorities and Transit New Zealand) for a variety of land transport activities, including road construction, road maintenance and public transport. Land Transport NZ believes it can add value to this process by helping approved organisations to be smarter about how they procure these activities.

Land Transport NZ is able to provide assistance with this process by improving the procurement procedures for physical works and professional services that it requires approved organisations

to follow. This review is necessary because the existing competitive pricing procedures have been in place for many years. In that time, the environment for procuring construction, maintenance and professional services has changed considerably.

Consultation

Land Transport NZ has consulted extensively with approved organisations and other key stakeholders about its procurement procedures and the wider procurement environment. This has included discussions around how to take a more strategic approach to procurement to achieve better value for money across the board, rather than focusing on detailed procurement rules.

Feedback from these discussions has shown that stakeholders want more scope for innovation and greater flexibility within any changes Land Transport NZ makes to its procurement procedures. There was also a desire to see more collaborative working arrangements among those in the land transport sector, along with more support

and training. Another clear message from the feedback was to reduce the complexity around the Land Transport NZ procurement procedures.

Phasing of new procurement regime

The new procurement regime will be phased in from 1 July 2008. Land Transport NZ believes this transition period is vital, as each approved organisation will be at a different stage of readiness to embrace these changes. Land Transport NZ is committed to providing the education and training to support this change process to make sure it happens as smoothly as possible.

For more information on procurement, visit www.landtransport.govt.nz/funding/procurement.

If you wish to receive email updates on the progress of the review, please email procurement@landtransport.govt.nz with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' in the subject line.

Land Transport NZ Annual report

Land Transport NZ's *Annual report for the year ending 30 June 2007* is now available. It is a record of achievements in the delivery of the government's land transport objectives and wider transport vision.

Some of the year's highlights outlined in the report include the rollout of a revamped Safe with Age driver refresher course, continuation of work to regulate fairly to protect people, development of the Operator Rating System for commercial transport operators, and progressing several sustainability initiatives.

To download the *Annual report*, go to www.landtransport.govt.nz/about/annual-report/2007/index.html.



Land Transport NZ gears up to deliver Bike Wise in 2008



Land Transport NZ is encouraging New Zealanders to get on their bikes as part of Bike Wise Week 2008.

Running from 23 February to 2 March, Bike Wise is a nationwide programme of events and activities promoting cycling as a fun, healthy and safe means of transport.

Last year, over 100,000 people took part in 533 cycling events and activities across the country. Major Bike Wise events in 2008 include:

- **Go By Bike Day** (Wednesday 27 February) – a day on which New Zealanders young and old are encouraged to cycle to school or work.
- **Bike Wise Business Battle** (Monday 18 February – 2 March) – an inter-organisation competition that aims to get more people biking more often. Organisations that get the highest percentage of staff on a bike during the Business Battle are eligible to win some great prizes.
- **Mayoral Challenge** (any Saturday or Sunday between 16 February and Sunday 2 March) – a national community event where mayors from around New Zealand

are challenged to see who can get the most people cycling behind them.

The secret to the week's success is the nationwide network of local and regional event coordinators from across the community. The programme is also supported by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, ACC, New Zealand Police, Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC), Bike New Zealand, the Bicycle Industry Association of New Zealand (BIANZ), the Cycle Advocates' Network (CAN) and the Health Sponsorship Council, who successfully managed Bike Wise for 13 years before handing delivery of the programme to Land Transport NZ so they could pursue other initiatives.

Register now at www.bikewise.co.nz and start training for your involvement in the 2008 Bike Wise Week.

To make sure you are fit and ready for Bike Wise Week, go to www.activesmart.co.nz, where you can create your own individualised training programme.



Board funding approvals

The Land Transport NZ Board has approved funding for the following activities:

Construction of Transit New Zealand's SH 20 Manukau Harbour crossing project

Funding has been approved for the Manukau Harbour crossing project, which aims to relieve congestion on SH 20, largely associated with the Mangere Bridge.

Investigation and design of ARTA's transport package to upgrade the New Lynn town centre in Waitakere city

New Lynn is a key transport hub bordering the Auckland isthmus and is central to the major population areas in the southern sector of Waitakere city. Funding has been approved for design improvements to both the transport interchange and roading, walking and cycling networks around the interchange.

Design of Transit New Zealand's SH 2 Maramarua deviation

The existing road is a two-lane single carriageway through the Maramarua township, with heavy vehicle usage and a high frequency of crashes. Funding has been approved for the design of the Maramarua deviation project, intended to bring about long-term safety improvements.

Investigation of Transit New Zealand's Kopuku realignment (SH 2) project near Maramarua

Kopuku is located south of Auckland on SH 2 and currently records a heavy flow of traffic with a high crash rate. Funding has been approved for investigation of a realignment project to address safety on this stretch of road.

Investigation and design of the Hastings District Council's Hastings northern arterial

Funding has been approved for the investigation and design of the Hastings northern arterial project. This will look at providing a safe and efficient route between Havelock North and the expressway, giving access to the northern parts of Hastings without passing through the central business district, and minimising heavy vehicles on residential streets. Land Transport NZ has required the Hastings District Council to include consideration of passenger transport and walking and cycling on other parts of its network, as part of the council's work on the northern arterial project.

Exhaust emissions rule will improve our environment



New Zealanders can look forward to cleaner air and better vehicles with the introduction of new exhaust emissions standards from 3 January next year.

Vehicles entering New Zealand from that date will have to meet minimum emission standards under the new Land Transport Vehicle Exhaust Emissions Rule 2007, signed on 27 November. The rule imposes higher minimum emission standards on all new and used vehicles entering the fleet, bringing New Zealand in line with Japanese and European standards.

Associate Minister of Transport Hon Judith Tizard said, 'Under the rule, all used vehicles will now be tested before entering New Zealand to ensure their emissions control equipment is working. It will also be illegal to modify any new or used vehicles' equipment that could cause their emissions to worsen.'

The Japan 02/04 standard will be the new minimum standard required for all used diesel imports from January next year.

'Many of the diesel vehicles coming into this country have already been banned from Tokyo's roads because of the concern over air quality. The Tokyo government won't allow these vehicles on their roads and we are taking the same stance,' Judith Tizard said.

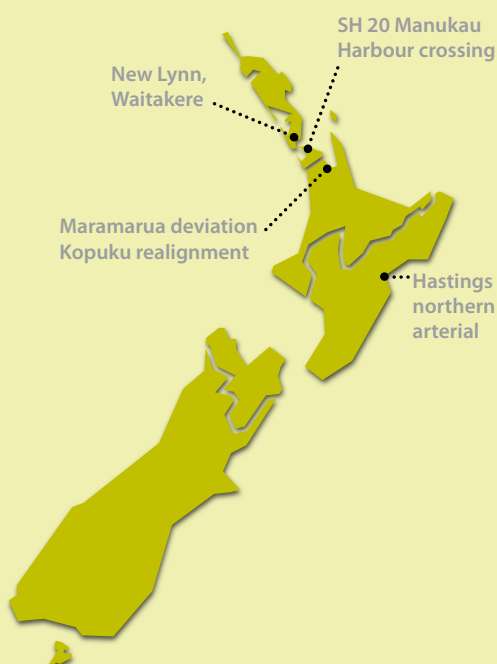
The rule was modified from its initial draft and released in May this year, following consultation and submissions from a wide range of interested parties. Changes made following stakeholder engagement included removing the requirement that all used petrol vehicles must comply with the Japan 00/02 standard.

'Petrol vehicles built to the Japan 98 standard can continue to be imported into New Zealand next year. The Japan 00/02 standard will be introduced from 2009. This should result in improved air quality and minimise potential economic and social impacts,' the minister said.

The new rule also changes the requirements for new vehicles entering the fleet. The current rule had in some cases allowed delays of up to four years before some standards came into force. The timeframe has been shortened to two years – a move that is supported by the new vehicle industry.

'The rule now gives clear guidance to the new car industry that New Zealand will adopt new standards as they are adopted internationally,' the minister said.

Transport Safety Minister Harry Duynhoven said that more new cars coming into New Zealand is good news for motorists, who can also look forward to driving safer vehicles.



Hamilton drivers challenged to 'give a damn'



A new road safety campaign in Hamilton city asks drivers to 'give a damn' about reducing the number of crashes, deaths and injuries in the city.

The campaign initially targets intersections, alcohol and speed, and will encourage each driver to make one positive change to a bad driving habit, with further initiatives planned for the new year.

Hamilton crash numbers have been rising steadily since 2003. In 2006, there were 1509 crashes reported. Six of those crashes resulted in fatalities, 35 in serious injuries and 253 in minor injuries.

Land Transport NZ Senior Engineer Rob Bullick said the 'give a damn' slogan was a deliberately provocative call to action, designed to challenge drivers about their driving habits.

'The initial campaign is primarily an education and enforcement project, with engineering changes planned or underway to make intersections safer,' said Rob.

This has been a successful project due to the involvement of several agencies with a stake in road safety – the Police, Hamilton City Council, Transit New Zealand, Land Transport NZ, Environment Waikato, ACC and the Population Health Service of the Waikato District Health Board. This is the first Network Safety Coordination project that focuses solely on an urban road network.

Colin Brodie, Transit's National Safety Engineer, says the project has been a new experience for Transit. 'It's a multi-agency, 3-Es project (engineering, enforcement and education) involving a second road controlling authority, an urban environment and a strong emphasis on modifying driver behaviour and awareness through education and enforcement.'

Manawatu Contact Centre of the Year 2007

On 16 November, the Land Transport NZ Contact Centre was named 'Manawatu Contact Centre of the Year 2007' at an awards evening held in the Palmerston North Convention Centre. Contact Centre Manager Michelle Charlton was named 'Manawatu Contact Centre Manager of the Year 2007'.

The judges said Land Transport NZ's Contact Centre was 'driven top-down by clear strategic goals and bottom up by a very strong process driven model that sets very clear direction for all team members. The centre values its people to the nth degree and offers many ways for staff to grow and develop, and most importantly, to add value to the running of the centre. Land Transport NZ's Contact Centre has had a "stellar" year with all performance targets being exceeded. The judges were "wowed" by an intrinsically connected contact centre that is undoubtedly a benchmark for all contact centres in the country.'

There are a range of awards designed to recognise excellence and professionalism in the contact centre industry and provide an opportunity for individuals, teams and organisations to benchmark themselves. Given the large number of contact centres within the Manawatu region, the Manawatu Contact Centre Cluster Group decided to stage their own awards so that more people could be involved. This is the second year that the awards have been staged within the Manawatu, and the Friday evening awards ceremony was attended by nearly 400 people, which is on a par with the national Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand (TUANZ) Contact Centre Awards staged in Auckland.

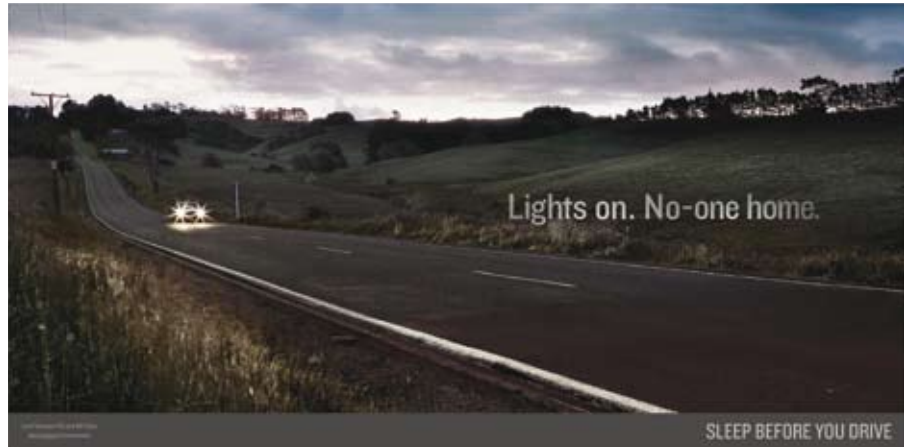


Left to right: Ian Gordon – General Manager Regulatory Services, Brett Dooley – Manager Transport Registry Centre, Michelle Charlton – Contact Centre Manager, Wayne Donnelly – Chief Executive Land Transport NZ

New fatigue advertising campaign

A new Land Transport NZ road safety television advertising campaign focusing on fatigued driving went to air on 16 December. The campaign looks at the symptoms of fatigue (driving while tired) and the possible consequences of not waking up to the warning signs before it is too late.

'Normal' levels of tiredness are not usually perceived as harmful and most drivers don't recognise the symptoms of fatigue that lead to poor concentration and poor judgement on the road. Many drivers feel they can control tiredness on the road by doing things like winding down windows or drinking coffee. However, fatigued driving is a serious road safety issue. In 2006, it killed 41 people and injured nearly 1000.



The target audience for this advertising campaign is drivers who make regular weekend trips away. While some already accept that driving when tired is dangerous, they choose to drive anyway. They accept the risk because they just want to get to their destination.

In the advertisements, people are asked to recognise the symptoms of tiredness that indicate they are not safe behind the wheel. Supporting advertising will focus on the solutions by asking people to consciously plan their journey rather than simply focus on the destination.

Award for deficiency database programme



The programme and course book were developed on behalf of Land Transport NZ by consulting engineer George Jason Smith of Maunsell Ltd.

The deficiency database programme helps RCAs identify hazards and deficiencies on their roading network. It also prioritises remedies and makes improvements on the basis of the safety risk for each deficiency to road users.

Nearly all RCAs have safety management systems for their road networks. These systems invariably require RCAs to identify safety

A programme developed to assist road controlling authorities (RCAs) has won the 2007 3M award for traffic engineering innovation at the recent professional engineers' transportation group conference.

deficiencies within their networks and to prioritise interventions that will address those problems.

Why use a deficiency database?

While informal knowledge-based and paper-based lists can be used to identify hazards and deficiencies, the most efficient method is to create a computerised list of hazards and deficiencies, commonly known as a deficiency database.

Land Transport NZ has developed a model deficiency database and hazard register and is now investigating extending the capabilities of the road asset maintenance management (RAMM) database to include it.

How you can help

Guidelines for the preparation and management of deficiency databases have been developed. These include notes used in the workshop and the deficiency database spreadsheet developed by Maunsell Ltd.

These can be downloaded from the Land Transport NZ website at www.landtransport.govt.nz/roads/sms/deficiency-database-course.html.

Further courses may be held, depending on demand. For more information or to register your interest in attending a workshop, please contact Michael Doole, Land Transport NZ, PO Box 2840, Wellington 6140 or michael.doole@landtransport.govt.nz or 04 931 8832.

Holiday driving tips

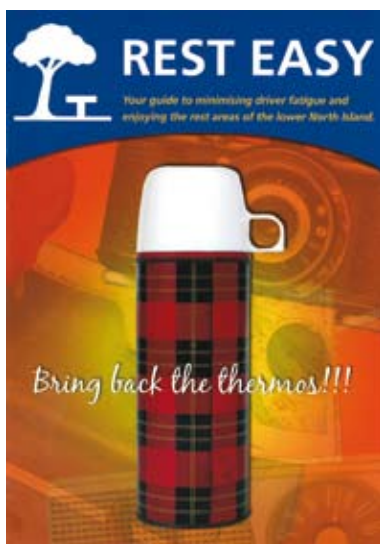
Last year, there were nine deaths recorded on New Zealand roads over the Christmas/new year holiday period – the lowest number of holiday casualties in 46 years.

If this positive trend is to continue and improve, we need to make sure the care and patience shown by most drivers over the holiday period continues.

Make sure you have a safe summer holiday and follow these road safety tips:

- Be aware of driver fatigue – watch for the warning signs and take a break at least every two hours.
- Give your vehicle a thorough check before travelling. Pay attention to the cooling system and have any faults repaired well before you start the journey. (Note: many garages offer safety checks for tyre tread and pressure, lights, brakes, cooling systems and other components.)
- Be patient with holiday traffic hold-ups.
- Remember that your vehicle will handle differently when towing trailers or caravans and using roof racks.
- Be aware of things like sunstrike – keep your windscreen and your sunglasses clean.
- Watch for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly small children – the holidays are a popular time for walking and cycling.

If you're travelling around the lower North Island, take a look at the *Rest easy* glovebox



guide. It contains information about fatigue and planning road trips and a fatigue self-assessment tool, along with public toilet locations and a map of the central region that indicates the locations of rest areas. Copies of the guide are available at i-sites and information centres within the central region or email rsc@horizons.govt.nz or phone 0508 800 800.

For more holiday driving tips, go to www.landtransport.govt.nz/road-user-safety/safe-driving-tips/holiday-driving.html.

Next issue out February 2008

Just a reminder that there is no January issue of *Land transport news*. The first issue for 2008 comes out in February, before Bike Wise Week on 23 February – 2 March (www.bikewise.co.nz) and Feet First Walk to School Week on 3–7 March (www.feetfirst.govt.nz).

Do we have your correct details?

We would like to hear from you if you wish to update your name or address details or alter the number of copies of *Land transport news* you would like to receive.

Also, please let us know if you or others you know wish to begin receiving *Land transport news*.

Email alan.heppleston@landtransport.govt.nz regarding distribution.

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