



Streets for People programme 2021-2024

Frequently Asked Questions

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FAQs

What is the Streets for People programme?

Streets for People programme aims to make it easier and faster to create safer, healthier, and more people-friendly streets in our towns and cities.

The programme creates opportunities for councils to partner with communities to accelerate street change projects (e.g. walking and cycling improvements, safe routes to school, road safety). This will help Aotearoa to achieve its emissions reduction goals faster, while creating vibrant, people-friendly places for thriving communities.

Where does the funding come from?

The funding pool is similar to the Innovating Streets for People programme, with \$30m set aside from the National Land Transport Plan (2021-24) with a Funding Assistance Rate of up to 90 percent (the remainder local share).

Why is Waka Kotahi funding streets changes? Why is this programme important?

We need to make it safer, quicker, and more attractive for people to walk, bike, ride devices, and take public transport in our towns and cities. Better transport options will reduce emissions, reduce deaths and injuries on our roads, and improve public health and access to opportunities.

Streets are public places that need to prioritise people, not just vehicles, to make our towns and cities better places to live, play and work in. People live on streets, they shop on streets, they meet friends and family on streets, and they may even play on the street.

The government's Emissions Reduction Plan includes actions like the Streets for People programme to accelerate widespread street changes to support public transport, active travel, and placemaking.

How does the programme link in with the government's Emissions Reduction Plan?

There is urgency to rapidly reduce emissions and mode shift is needed to meet the targets set out in the government's Emissions Reduction Plan.

The plan sets out the actions needed across every sector of the economy to reduce emissions and achieve New Zealand's first emissions budget and lays the foundations for greater reductions in the future.

And transport has a significant role to play in this, as it calls for a 41 percent reduction in emissions from the transport sector by 2035 (from 2019 levels).

There are three focus areas for reducing transport emissions:

- reduce reliance on cars and support people to walk, cycle and use public transport – the ERP includes an action to scale up the Streets for People programme in order to accelerate street changes.
- rapidly adopt low-emissions vehicles.
- begin work now to decarbonise heavy transport and freight.

Four targets support these focus areas and align with the goal of a 41 percent reduction in transport emissions:

- Target 1: Reduce total kilometres travelled by the light fleet by 20 percent by 2035 through improved urban form and providing better travel options, particularly in our largest cities.

- Target 2: Increase zero-emissions vehicles to 30 percent of the light fleet by 2035.
- Target 3: Reduce emissions from freight transport by 35 percent by 2035.
- Target 4: Reduce the emissions intensity of transport fuel by 10 percent by 2035.

Where did this programme come from?

Streets for People is built on the evidence and experiences of the [Innovating Streets for People programme 2020-21](#), which allowed councils and community groups across Aotearoa to trial different kinds of changes on 89km of streets in 32 towns and cities.

The changes trialled in the earlier programme included cycleways, parklets, low traffic streets, community spaces, and safer school crossings. The new Streets for People programme will build on the most successful aspects of those earlier trials to make public spaces more vibrant and safer for people walking, biking, and scootering.

How many councils will be taking part in the Streets for People programme?

13 councils across Aotearoa New Zealand have been awarded funding to implement accelerated street change projects for walking and cycling as part of the Waka Kotahi Streets for People programme.

The successful councils, which will be implementing projects as part of the Streets for People programme 2021-24 are: Auckland Transport; Christchurch City Council; Central Hawkes Bay District Council; Gisborne District Council; Hastings District Council; Hutt City Council; Napier City Council; Nelson City Council; Palmerston North City Council; Tasman District Council; Timaru District Council; Wellington City Council and Whanganui District Council.

What types of projects will be funded as part of the Streets for People programme?

The successful projects from across the country include a mixture of walking improvements for town centres, neighbourhoods and links to public transport; cycle networks, safer school routes to school and speed reduction/safety improvements.

How were the final councils decided?

The funding process was split into three steps, and each was a gateway to the next stage:

- **Expression of interest (closed 22 February 2022)**
All councils across Aotearoa with activities committed to mode-shift already included in the current Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs) were invited to apply to participate in the Streets for People programme.

30 councils across Aotearoa expressed their interest to participate in the Streets for People programme 2021-24.

- **Phase 1 - Funding the Foundations (pre-implementation, April-July 2022)**

In this phase, Waka Kotahi worked with the councils to build internal capability and ensure organisational readiness, willingness and processes that will enable them to implement rapid approaches. This has helped guide the project teams through the key elements of undertaking a adaptive urbanism project and ensure they have a team in place and have considered the key factors for success.

This has ensured Waka Kotahi has more confidence that councils moving forward to full implementation of their proposed project will be able to successfully deliver them.

Councils also presented their proposal, including an overview of their proposed projects, to Waka Kotahi leadership. This was an opportunity for councils to demonstrate the proposal objectives, how it will help New Zealand become a safer, carbon zero country. It asked councils to outline what resources and processes they have in place to support delivery of the proposal, as well as the engagement tools they use to work with their community.

- **Phase 2 - Funding the Projects (implementation, September 2022 to June 2024)**
This phase funds the proposed projects in the council's proposals. Ongoing national support is being provided as council's move into engagement planning, scheme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This includes national communications and engagement support, wider system changes and capability.

Additionally, a support programme will be developed for those councils who were not successful in securing funding but would still like to build capability within their organisation to do street change projects more easily and quickly.

How were the Expressions of Interest assessed?

The EOIs were assessed by our expert advisory group within Waka Kotahi.

What criteria was used to select the councils and how were they selected?

The Streets for People criteria are guided by the extensive evaluation of the 2020/2021 Innovating Streets for People funding programme, which is available at www.nzta.govt.nz/streets-for-people. In 2020/2021, we partnered with 32 councils through Innovating Streets for People to deliver 78 projects, supporting them to demonstrate quick, effective, and affordable solutions on the ground, and growing community feedback and confidence in real time.

Councils were enabled to build capability to quickly change street space, and dynamically test new street layouts, materials, and approaches. The fund led the way for rapid learning by upskilling a nationwide Community of Practice over 300-strong and producing collective insights into nimble and engaging ways to deliver long-term plans, streamline processes, and a shared suite of modular solutions for partnering with the community to get things done. The evaluation of projects delivered through Innovating Streets in 2020/2021 has helped us identify key criteria to set up Aotearoa for success in rapidly reallocating road space to enable more people to walk, bike, and scoot.

Each set of criteria links back to key learnings from the 2020/2021 evaluation. Listening to the insights of participating councils, community partners, and practitioners from across the motu about the importance of leadership, team, resourcing, and capability building, we have made changes to our programme and support. These changes include the development of multiple funding phases, the readiness programme and a standardised monitoring and evaluation programme for projects.

What will the programme fund?

Streets for People will provide funding to accelerate the successful delivery of a local strategy or plan with proposed road space reallocation and mode shift projects identified in an approved RLTP and/or the NLTP, using adaptive approaches that allow for rapid implementation. This can include funding activities such as enhanced collaborative engagement practices, expert resources, or materials for piloting designs.

What sits outside the Streets for People funding criteria?

Streets for People is established to fund capability building and project delivery through adaptive methods. This does not include the development of council strategic planning for mode shift or the development of the network operating framework. Councils looking for support in these areas should visit:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/planning-and-investment-knowledge-base/202124-nltp/2021-24-nltp-activity-classes-and-work-categories/investment-management/>

What happens to the councils who didn't make the shortlist or who weren't successful in getting funding?

Waka Kotahi will invite all applicants to be part of the wider Streets for People support programme, which will include a Community of Practice, webinars and events.

How is the programme different to Transport Choices?

Work on is underway on two programmes that will help Aotearoa to achieve its emissions reduction goals faster, while creating vibrant, people-friendly places for thriving communities.

1. Streets for People

The Streets for People programme 2021-24 aims to make it easier and faster to create more people-friendly streets in our towns and cities. The programme is investing \$30m to enable Councils to partner with local communities by test street changes that better meet community needs.

In early September, Waka Kotahi announced that 13 councils across the country will receive funding to test street changes as part of Waka Kotahi Streets for People programme 2021-24.

2. Transport Choices

The Transport Choices Fund is part of the Government's Climate Emergency Response Fund, \$350m has been allocated to rapidly reallocate existing street space for walking, cycling and public transport. The Expression of Interest for funds was released to Councils in the first week of August and this month will see Waka Kotahi involved in many conversations to refine the final programme to be presented to the Minister for approval in September.

The Transport Choices package is an investment package for Local Councils to begin immediate work for reduction of emissions, as part of the emissions reduction plan released in May 2022.

Its purpose is to build momentum, capability and public support ahead of more detailed VKT reduction planning and investment programmes that will happen over the next few years.

Investment will be targeted in four key areas:

- Progressing strategic cycle networks
- Creating walkable neighbourhoods
- Safe, green, and healthy school travel
- Making public transport more reliable and easier to use.

Combined, these two programmes will mean a significant number of projects that will make safer, more liveable places for people across Aotearoa.