

Safe School Transport Programme

Glossary

Auckland Council	(AC)
Auckland Transport	(AT)
New Zealand Transport Authority	(NZTA)
Statement of Intent	(SOI)

Executive Summary

AT has developed a Safe School Transport Programme (Travelwise) to work with primary, intermediate and secondary schools to improve road safety and reduce congestion across the Auckland region. There are currently 539 schools with approximately 259,000 students travelling to school each morning in the Auckland region. The 2008 Household Travel Survey showed that 56% of Auckland primary and intermediate schools and 36% of trips to Auckland secondary schools were by car.

AT has seen the programme grow by an additional 25 schools in 2011 to 216, with an additional 50 schools planned in 2012 to 266. The growth in schools is indicated on a school year basis rather than by financial year. A map showing the location of schools in the programme is shown in Attachment 1. The economic evaluation (utilising the NZTA Economic Evaluation Manual) of the programme has a benefit cost ratio of 6.9, with over 50% of benefits achieved through safety improvements and the remaining through congestion benefits.

In the 2011/12 financial year a total of \$11.5m is being invested in the development and implementation of safe school travel options delivering road safety and congestion initiatives, walking schools buses, cycle training and road safety infrastructure including speed warning signs, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming measures and pedestrian improvements around schools.

AT also annually invests \$10m per annum to provide 400 School Buses, servicing 153 schools and carrying a total of 2,612,237 passenger trips per annum. Since 2010 the patronage for Auckland Transport school buses has grown by 2.3%. Students also use urban services and commercially operated buses and receive concession fares. In 2011 the number of all school age trips using these services was recorded as 9,804,588 passenger trips.

Between 2006-2010 school age children accounted for 5% (644) of all injury crashes on the local road network. As part of the programme a research study was undertaken in 2011 examining the safety benefits of the Safe School Transport Programme around 46 schools. The result demonstrates that the programme contributed to a decrease in the average number of crashes per year in a 500m vicinity of schools by 8%.

As part of AT's SOI, the Schools programme provides reductions in AM peak travel flow. Schools participating in the programme in 2011 were evaluated and showed that the programme has contributed to a reduction of 9104 vehicles (in the morning peak) which equates to approximately a 10% decrease in total car use from the 2010 survey.

An example of the local congestion impact is seen on Albany Highway, where Albany Primary and Junior High Schools have seen reductions in car use by 230 vehicles in the morning peak. This equates to a reduction in traffic flow of 16% in the morning peak flow (Albany Highway carries an average of 1400 in the AM peak).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board:

- i). Receive the report

Strategic Context

The Safe School Transport Programme is a cross organisation programme involving Community Transport, Road Corridor Operations, Investigation & Design, Parking & Enforcement, Public Transport and Communications & Public Affairs. The delivery of the programme requires a partnership with the School, School community, Local Boards and key stakeholders including the NZTA and the New Zealand Police. The aim of the programme is to deliver a Safe System approach to road safety around schools and reduce congestion by implementing following initiatives:

- Safe School Plan - a whole of school approach delivering practical actions to improve road safety and reduce car use
- Providing a transport educational framework for schools
- Provision of subsidised public transport services
- Student road safety education campaigns
- Implementation of Road Safety engineering including pedestrian crossings, 40km/h speed zones and traffic calming measures
- Facilitating Walking School Buses
- Safety at the school gate – enforcement and education of parking restrictions around schools
- Cycle training

Background

AT works with NZ Police education officers to deliver road safety and cycle training in schools as well as working with lead teachers to embed road safety into the school curriculum. Road Safety education and infrastructure improvements play an important role in promoting walking and cycling to schools, and it helps to remove the barriers, both real and perceived for the safety of children on their way to and from school. Over the last year seventeen 40 km/hour zones and 11 electronic active warning signs have been installed, together with 90 area specific engineering improvements.

A research study was conducted by AT in 2011 and built on a 2010 NZTA investigation into the safety benefits of safe school plans for 46 schools (half with safe school plans and the other half a control group). The result demonstrated that the introduction and on-going delivery of safe school plans contributes to a decrease in the average number of crashes per year in a 500m vicinity of school by 44% for pedestrians and cyclists aged 5-13, and 8% for all crashes (a reduction in over 500). The impact on the social costs of crashes (as defined by the Ministry of Transport) were examined in relation to the number of pedestrian and cyclists between the ages of five and thirteen around the schools. The research identified

that following the introduction of safe school plans, the annual social cost of crashes around the schools reduced by 58% from \$1.5766m to \$668,800. The reduction was attributed to a decrease in crashes, changes in particular types of crashes and reductions in the severity of crashes.

Next Steps

The programme for 2012 is focused on:

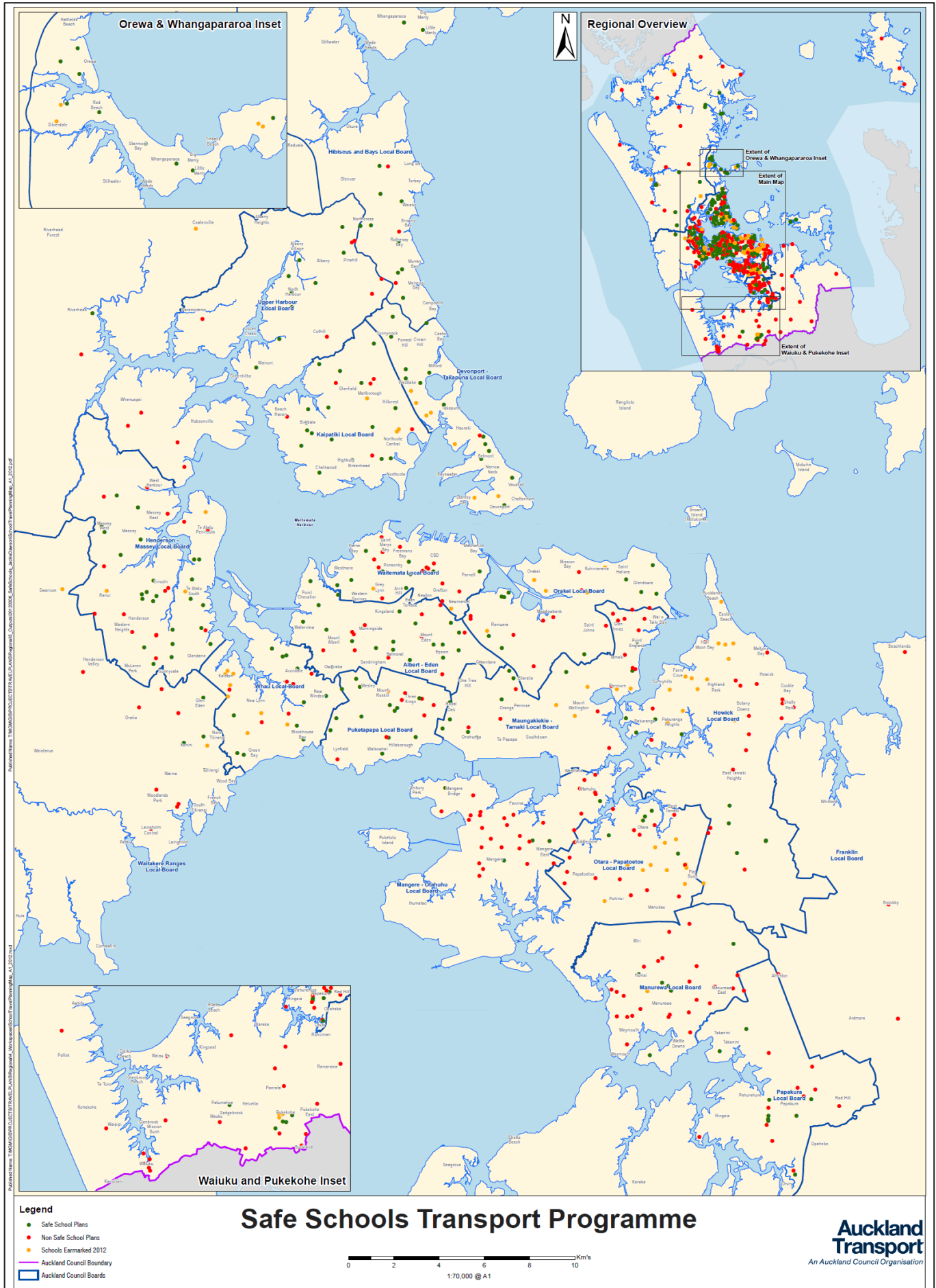
- Prioritising new schools on the programme with the highest crash risk in adjacent streets
- Developing a stronger road safety “whole of school approach” culture with schools to reduce the associated crash risks in the streets adjacent to schools
- Reducing congestion through promotion of public transport (including integrated ticketing), walking (walking school buses) and cycling (training and development of cycle trains)
- Working with schools in areas where major infrastructure improvements are planned including AMETI, Dominion Road, and Albany Highway
- Focus on High Schools to align with future young drivers and public transport users
- Developing stronger partnerships between NZTA, NZ Police, Local Boards and school communities

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Safe School Transport Programme Map

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