

Sustainable travel options for communities not serviced by public transport

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this presentation is to report on a new area of policy work NZ Transport Agency is developing which focuses on sustainable travel options for communities not serviced by public transport.

Overview

Presentation will cover:

- Does it really make sense to talk about sustainable travel in small towns and rural areas?
- Why is NZTA involved?
- What is the problem?
- What solutions are available?
- What's happening out there?
- What is the next step?

Does it really make sense...?



What does "sustainable" mean anyway???

... that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Report, 1987)

Subsets ◊ affordable ◊ safe ◊ socially equitable ◊ clean ◊ accessible

Does it really make sense....yes it does!

Sustainable transport – the goal

People living in areas without PT are able to access opportunities without undue costs to environment, health, safety and social and economic wellbeing.



Why is NZTA involved?

New Zealand Transport Strategy 2008 provides government vision for transport to 2040

"...Supporting traditional public transport is likely to be more cost-effective in larger urban areas and for travel between cities. Elsewhere, less traditional forms of shared transport (such as voluntary and community transport, ridesharing and car clubs) will need to be explored to address accessibility and social exclusion in a cost effective way."

Why is NZTA involved?

- ◇ Travel behaviour change work traditionally focuses on urban congestion
- ◇ The current economic situation is difficult



What is the problem?

Some facts about rural areas and small towns

- ◇ 14% of New Zealanders live in rural areas
- ◇ People travel much further in cars to access services
- ◇ People pay more for their petrol



What is the problem?

Vulnerable groups

- ◇ Low income households
- ◇ Households without a car
- ◇ Disabled people
- ◇ Children and young people
- ◇ Elderly people
- ◇ Those living in remote locations
- ◇ Minority groups and new immigrants

What solutions are available?



What solutions are available?

Solutions fall into 3 categories:

- ◇ Sharing transport – making the most of existing capacity
- ◇ Bringing goods and services to people
- ◇ Non-transport solutions – removing/reducing the need to travel

Solutions – sharing transport

Where is there spare capacity?

- ◇ Private cars
- ◇ DHB/PHO vans
- ◇ Rural postal delivery vans
- ◇ School buses
- ◇ Taxis
- ◇ Vans/cars belonging to marae, churches, sports clubs, private businesses, pubs
- ◇ Car share clubs

Solutions – bringing goods and services into the community

- ◇ Mobile services
- ◇ Farmers' and other markets
- ◇ Heartland Services
- ◇ Home delivery services



Solutions – non-transport

Technology can reduce the need to travel

- ◇ Broadband access for rural areas
- ◇ Quality cell phone coverage

Integration and coordination of services

- ◇ Ensuring services do not compete
- ◇ Integrating modes



What's happening out there?



- ◇ Schemes targeting most needy most widespread and enduring
- ◇ Rural mail delivery agent
- ◇ Bluff Community Board
- ◇ "Knicker" bus
- ◇ Mamaku family bus

What is the next step?

- ◇ Development of practical guidance
- ◇ Integrated Approach to Planning
- ◇ Community Transport Fund



Questions and contributions?

