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WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 3-7 March 2008

Minister of Transport Annette King and Land Transport NZ Chief Executive Wayne Donnelly join Lyall Bay School and guests at the launch of Feet First Walk to School Week.

Kiwi kids take Feet First to the streets

A record number of Kiwi kids hit the footpaths and walked to class 'feet first' during Feet First Walk to School Week (3-7 March).

Due to the high demand for the programme and a Government funding boost, Feet First expanded nationwide in 2008, reaching more schools and more children than ever before.

More than 140,000 primary school children from 440 schools in 43 towns, cities and districts across the country braved the early autumn wet weather to help double the number of participating schools and students from last year.

Feet First Walk to School Week is an annual event led by Land Transport NZ that aims to boost the number of children walking to and

from school by promoting the benefits of making the trip on foot.

Getting children out of cars and onto their feet will make them fitter and healthier, and they'll have more social interaction with other children. It will also reduce the amount of money that is spent on petrol, relieve congestion at the school gate and help to cut energy use and vehicle emissions.

It was great to see Feet First Walk to School Week well supported by parents, teachers and well-known figures joining children on their walk to school, including the Prime Minister,

Helen Clark, Annette King, Green Party Co-Leader Jeanette Fitzsimons, the Governor-General of New Zealand, Anand Satyanand, children's television presenters Suzy Cato and Bryan & Bobby, and sports celebrities April Iremia and Bernice Mene.

Children were encouraged to walk to school with friends or caregivers, or as part of a walking school bus, and to continue this throughout the year.

Visit www.feetfirst.govt.nz for further information, including a full list of the schools that took part.

Bike Wise builds on cycling momentum

Thousands of New Zealanders hopped on a bike and gave cycling a go during Bike Wise Week (23 February to 2 March 2008). Bike Wise is a nationwide campaign to get more people on their bikes and celebrate what is becoming a way of life for many.



More than 480 local and national cycling events and activities took place during Bike Wise Week. The Bike Wise Battle, where businesses and groups 'bike it out', ran from Monday 18 February to Sunday 2 March. This year, more than 11,388 people from 613 organisations (including departments) throughout the country participated.

Between 16 February and 2 March, 39 mayors led their cities' and districts' cyclists in the Mayoral Challenge event. On Go By Bike Day, Wednesday 27 February, thousands of New Zealanders cycled to work, meetings, universities, schools or the shops, stopping at 49 official designated centres along the way to enjoy a free breakfast and live entertainment.

Bike Wise aims to be a catalyst for cycling in New Zealand, so hop on your bike and help us keep the cycling momentum going throughout the year.

The latest data from the Ministry of Transport's Household Travel Survey shows that there are 1.3 million cyclists in New Zealand. According to figures from the Bicycle Industry Association of New Zealand and Land Transport New Zealand, bike imports outstripped first-time car registrations last year, with 246,526 bike imports compared with 197,836 car registrations. This growing passion for pedal power is also reflected in Bike Wise Week participation numbers.

Bike Wise Week keeps getting bigger every year, and it's exciting to see continued growth in

the number of people getting involved, with more than 100,000 people taking part in 2008.

Bike Wise Week is part of a concerted effort to increase the number of urban trips by bike or foot and increase the use of active, healthy transport modes like cycling.

Land Transport NZ produced Bike Wise Week with support from the Ministry of Health because it helps boost the profile of cycling as a fun, healthy and sustainable form of transport that encourages people who don't usually cycle to give it a go.

Sealing of Southern Scenic Route

Even heavy rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the more than 50 people who attended the recent official opening for the sealing of the final leg of the Southern Scenic Route.

The 10 km section of Finlayson Road, connecting the small coastal village of Taieri Mouth near Dunedin and Lake Waihola, was the last remaining unsealed portion of the popular 440 km Southern Scenic Route. It links Dunedin with Te Anau and features some of New Zealand's most breathtaking scenery. The route takes in the wild beauty of the Catlins region and the sweeping coastal vista offered by Te Wae Wae Bay in Western Southland. The Automobile Association lists the Southern Scenic Route at number 15 on their '101 must-do's for kiwis' website (see www.aatravel.co.nz/101-must-dos-for-kiwis/Southern-Scenic-Route.html).

Designed and constructed over a three-year period for the Clutha District Council, the Finlayson Road seal extension was one of the first significant R-funded (regionally distributed

funding) projects in Otago. The total project cost \$2.66 million, with 70 percent of the construction costs covered by R-funding.

At the official opening, Clutha District Council Mayor Juno Hayes congratulated council staff and contractors SouthRoads and MWH New Zealand on a job well done.

Mayor Hayes said it was an historic day for the district, and the sealing of the 10 km stretch of road would be welcomed by the local Taieri Mouth and Waihola communities, as well as tourists using the iconic Southern Scenic Route.

Several local residents who attended the official opening expressed their satisfaction with the sealing of the road. Some used the occasion to reminisce about days gone by when they journeyed over the road and it was little more



Mayor Juno Hayes, with assistance from Finlayson Road resident Keith Gunion and his 3-year-old twins, Blue and Stevie Gunion, cut the ribbon to officially open the newly sealed road.

than a 'dirt track'. They were now looking forward to the safer and more comfortable trips over Finlayson Road that will result from the completion of this project.

Driver and vehicle safety under spotlight

With the dramatic landscape and challenging environment of the South Island's West Coast and Milford Sound, it's no wonder that this area has become one of New Zealand's foremost tourist destinations.

It provides a challenge for the safe transport of tourists. In the last six months, there have been two high-profile bus crashes, two bus fires and one crash resulting in the death of a passenger. This has tested the Southern Commercial Transport Team to look at how the regulation of the industry can best be managed in this area, given the tourist demands that the heavy motor vehicle industry faces.

Land Transport NZ staff recently combined with the New Zealand Police's Commercial Vehicle Investigation Unit (CVIU) staff to assess any emerging sector issues and review first-hand the level of compliance and awareness of the work time and logbook legislation that came into effect in October 2007.

Dennis Robertson, Manager Transport Relationships said, 'The principal mission of this operation was to undertake a snapshot review of the commercial road transport sector. In particular, we wanted to identify any regulatory issues that needed attending to, as well as understand any possible causal factor that could lead to future vehicle crashes in this sector.'

'If it was found that the results of this review related to vehicle and maintenance issues, or fatigue and issues with driving hours, then our focus in these areas would have to be increased,' said Dennis.



Ian Gordon, Land Transport NZ's General Manager Regulatory Services, visiting Southern Region Regulatory Services staff gets a first-hand view of operations and the heavy motor vehicle industry. With him are Dennis Robertson and Dermot Harris, also from Land Transport NZ.

One hundred and twenty-eight vehicles were stopped from Lake Tekapo through to Milford Sound, of which 88 were tour coaches. Two vehicles were ordered off the road when major safety issues were identified, and three operators were found to be operating without a transport service licence.

Dermot Harris, Regional Transport Advisor said that overall he was 'pleased with the level of compliance around driving hours and vehicle faults, but there is still work to do in some parts of the industry. There is clearly a need for operators to check vehicles daily and communicate the "work time" requirements to drivers.'

Dennis said, 'The most satisfying aspect of this operation was the positive feedback from drivers.'

Board funding projects

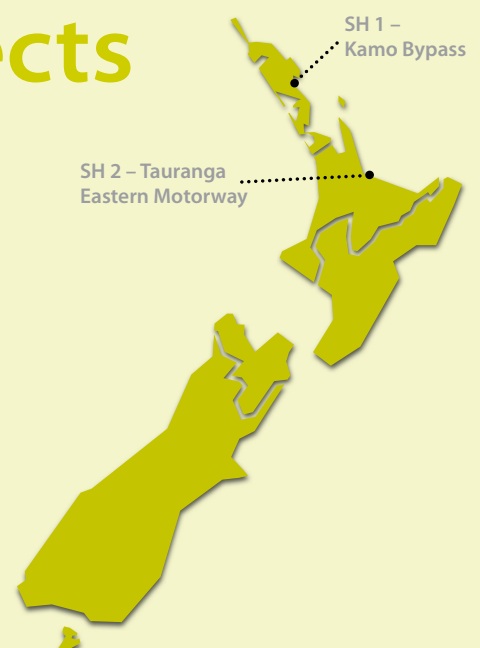
The Land Transport NZ Board has approved funding for the following activities

SH 2: Tauranga Eastern Motorway – design funding

The Board approved funding for the design phase of Transit New Zealand's Tauranga Eastern Motorway project. This 23 km new motorway is a part of the Tauranga Eastern Growth and Transport Strategy and will facilitate the desired growth pattern and provide a bypass for Te Puke. Construction of the Tauranga Eastern Motorway should make it possible to develop a safe and sustainable design of the local road network.

SH 1: Kamo Bypass, stage 2 – design funding

The Board approved funding for the design of Transit New Zealand's SH 1 Kamo Bypass, Stage 2 Project. The Kamo Bypass project aims to bypass the Kamo town centre in Whangarei and provide a link to the northeast of the city.



Wakatipu Transportation Study

A high-quality, high-frequency bus service, park-and-ride facilities and ferries are just some of the innovative approaches underpinning a strategy to tackle transportation issues facing our premier holiday destination, Queenstown.



Traffic congestion within the Queenstown central business district.

Other measures proposed in the Wakatipu Transportation Strategy to help relieve the pressure on land transport infrastructure in the Queenstown district include travel demand management and road design and connectivity.

The Queenstown-Lakes district is experiencing sustained growth in land use development, residential population and visitors. The council projected forward 20 years and found that, without developing a strategy to cope with the growth in travel demand, the area would suffer severe accessibility and congestion issues. Among the worst-affected areas would be State Highway 6A from Frankton to Queenstown and within the Queenstown central business district.

The Wakatipu Transportation Strategy is a

product of a partnership involving the Queenstown Lakes District Council, Transit New Zealand and the Otago Regional Council, with Land Transport NZ providing the central government proportion of the funding.

The strategy was officially launched in Queenstown last November by Transport Minister Annette King and supported by the Land Transport NZ Board when it met the following month. At the same meeting, the Land Transport NZ Board endorsed the proposed package of activities in the strategy for the next three years. Strategy partners are developing the details around these activities. Land Transport NZ anticipates funding applications to carry out these activities to follow once this work is completed.

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Road user charges 0800 655 644
Motor vehicle registration 0800 108 809
Overdimension permits 0800 683 774

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