

Q & As - *Getting there - on foot, by cycle*

Q1. What is the purpose of *Getting there – on foot, by cycle*?

A1. *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* is the Government's strategy to advance walking and cycling in New Zealand transport. The Strategy has three important goals:

- Community environments and transport systems that support walking and cycling.
- More people choosing to walk and cycle, more often.
- Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Reaching these goals will enable achievement of the Strategy's overall vision: *A New Zealand where people from all sectors of the community walk and cycle for transport and enjoyment.*

Q2. How does this strategy fit with the Government's *New Zealand Transport Strategy*?

A2. *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* sits under the *New Zealand Transport Strategy (NZTS)*. The *NZTS* is the first national transport strategy to seek to integrate all modes of transport. It recognises that different modes of transport can contribute in different ways, and that having a transport system that works for all modes will enable us to get the widest range of economic, social and environmental benefits. Walking and cycling are already important elements of the *NZTS*, providing access and mobility to a wide range of people. *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* is designed to maximise the contribution of these modes toward the objectives of the *NZTS*.

Q3. What benefits will increased walking and cycling offer?

A3. While not all trips can be made by walking and/or cycling, the scope is there for more of us to walk and cycle, more often – particularly for the short trips that make up a significant proportion of our day-to-day travel. We are looking to increase walking and cycling in those situations.

There are many potential benefits: We will be a fitter nation. We will be helping to reduce our demand on non-renewable energy resources, to make our air cleaner, and our streets less congested. And by creating communities that are more walk and cycle friendly, we will not only make it easier to get around on foot and by cycle, we will be helping to create safer, more liveable and more sustainable communities.

Q4. Why do we need a strategy for something as simple as walking or cycling?

A4. In New Zealand we undertake more than a billion trips a year on foot, and at least a 100 million by cycling. That is a lot of walking and cycling. But here, as in many other countries, walking and cycling are declining in relation to other modes of transport. For example, during the 90's, cycling trips decreased by around 39%. It is clear that we cannot simply expect these modes to take care of themselves. Action is required if they are to grow as modes of transport.

A strategy will help us focus our thinking and bring together all the issues that need to be considered. It sets out a framework for action so that everyone involved knows the direction we want to go together. And it will enable us to check on progress and make adjustments if needed.

Q5. We hear a lot more about cycling. Is the Government more committed to cycling than walking?

A5. Definitely not. Walking and cycling are equally important to New Zealand's transport mix, and both are recognised for the economic, social, health and environmental benefits they can contribute.

Q6. Is *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* a strategy or an action plan?

A6. *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* provides the strategic framework (vision, goals, key principles, focus areas and priorities for action) that will guide the development of detailed strategy action plans.

Q7. What are the next steps for strategy implementation?

A7. By June 2005 we expect to have:

- Clarified the roles, responsibilities, and functions of various national organisations in implementing the Strategy
- Completed further policy work to identify and prioritise potential actions at central level to strengthen and support effective strategy implementation at regional and local level

By December 2005 we expect to have:

- Completed the strategic planning for 2006 – 2008
- Developed the initial Strategy performance indicators
- Put in place the first annual national inter-agency action plan for the July 2006 – June 2007 period

By June 2007 we expect to have:

- Completed the first review of the Strategy
- Put in place the second national inter-agency action plan for the July 2007 – June 2008 period

Q8. What else is the government doing for walking and cycling?

A8. *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* incorporates and builds on current national initiatives for walking and cycling. In 2002, as part of its *Moving Forward* package, the Government provided for investment specifically for these modes within the National Land Transport Programme. This year (2004/05), the Government's contribution toward walking and cycling projects around New Zealand is expected to reach \$5million. Further government investment has also been made in the *Road Safety to 2010* strategy, specifically to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. A further \$1million has also just been made available for a 2005/06 programme of initiatives to promote walking and cycling.

Q9. Who will be responsible for implementing the Strategy?

A9. Successful implementation of the Strategy will require inter-sectoral effort at national, regional, and local levels. Central government and its agencies will have key roles to play, but so too will local and regional government. The Government has charged the Ministry of Transport with leading, co-ordinating, and monitoring implementation of the Strategy.

Q10. How does this national strategy fit with existing local and regional walking and cycling strategies?

A10. *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* recognises that much of the action that needs to occur for walking and cycling will happen regionally and locally. Many regions and communities have already developed walking and cycling strategies and are undertaking work for these modes of transport. Twelve examples of local initiatives for walking and cycling have been included in *Getting there*.

Getting there will provide an important point of reference, or 'benchmark', for the ongoing development of new and existing local strategies, and help ensure that national policies and action support effective action at a local and regional level.

Q11. How does the new programme of cycling and walking initiatives announced by the Government fit with *Getting there – on foot, by cycle*?

A11. The Government has announced funding (\$1.15 million plus GST) for a programme of initiatives for the next financial year designed to support implementation of aspects of *Getting there – on foot, by cycle*. The programme, which will be coordinated by the Health Sponsorship Council (HSC), focuses on promoting the use of walking and cycling for day-to-day transport, while also incorporating key safety messages.

The cycling component of the programme builds on the current Bikewise programme. It will enable expansion of the country's 'flagship' cycle promotion event (Bikewise Week), enable development of new guidelines for cycle skills education and enable piloting of new cycling promotional approaches. The programme also includes a set of new initiatives for walking that are designed to build sector capability in this area and strengthen local and regional pedestrian stakeholder networks. National conferences for both cycling and walking will also be supported.

Q12. Is the Government going to invest further in walking and cycling to support strategy implementation?

A12. It is expected that further central government investment in walking and cycling to support strategy implementation could come from a number of sectors such as transport, health, sport and recreation, and the environment. This investment will be informed by:

- ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy and its activities;
- development of the Strategy's national implementation plans; and
- regional and local walking and cycling strategies.

Q13. Where can I get copies of the strategy?

A13. For copies of *Getting there – on foot, by cycle*

- Visit www.transport.govt.nz (click on the “current/current issues” links)
- Email: walkcyclestrategy@transport.govt.nz
- Phone: (04) 498 0612