The Ministry of Transport is the government’s system lead on transport. The Ministry advises on the total set of transport interventions and levers including investment, regulation and others. As system stewards, we work to consider the long-term outcomes for the entire transport system. These outcomes are described in the Transport Outcomes Framework, which applies the Living Standards Framework to the transport system. This framework makes it clear what government is aiming to achieve through the transport system.

The Transport Outcomes Framework

The Ministry supports the Minister of Transport to produce a Government Policy Statement on land transport (GPS). The GPS details how Government expects the National Land Transport Fund (the NLTF) to contribute to a well-functioning land transport system over 10 years. The Ministry leads advice on investments that have implications for the Fund beyond 10 years and transport investments (including land transport investments) that are funded outside the GPS and the NLTF.

As part of the wider government commitment to the Māori-Crown relationship, the Ministry has a responsibility to engage with Māori and consider Māori outcomes.

Developing the GPS

The GPS sets out the Government’s priorities for expenditure from the NLTF. The GPS is developed by the Ministry of Transport on behalf of the Minister before public engagement begins.

How does it work?

The GPS is reviewed every three years and guides investment in transport by providing a 10 year outlook of how spending is prioritised in the transport network. Guided by the GPS strategic priorities, Waka Kotahi supports local government to create quality Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs), which it uses to create the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP).

When Waka Kotahi and local government make decisions on transport investment, they give effect to the strategic priorities set out in the GPS. As the largest co-funder of NLTP projects, local government has an essential role in building strong, evidence-based projects and programmes for investment.

This work is supported by the role of regional councils, territorial authorities and unitary councils in leading long-term planning for their area.

GPS Timeline

1 JULY: GPS TAKES EFFECT

Transport Minister directs development of GPS

Ministry of Transport discusses previous GPS with stakeholders to inform next GPS

DRAFT RELEASED FOR ENGAGEMENT

Engagement period

National engagement on the draft GPS

Review of submissions, final advice to Government

GDP closed for development

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and local government reflect GPS in RLTPs and NLTP

JULY: NEW GPS PUBLISHED

Cabinet considers final GPS

Implementation by Waka Kotahi and local government over 10 years

1 JULY: NEW GPS TAKES EFFECT
What are the strategic priorities?

The Government Policy Statement on land transport 2023 builds on the direction set in GPS 2018 and continues the Government’s commitment to safety within the transport system. The Policy Statement also prioritises better travel options in our towns and cities, and supports investments for improving freight connectivity through rail and coastal shipping. By including Climate Change as a strategic priority, the GPS highlights the Government’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transport system.

AT A GLANCE

GPS 2021

Developing a transport system where no-one is killed and lead investment (where necessary) to build a better future

Improving freight connections for economic activity.

The Coasting Shipping activity class will support New Zealand coastal shipping to operate on a level playing field with other freight operators.

The Rail Network activity class will be used to implement the Rail Plan by providing funding to KiwiRail to maintain and renew the national rail network.

Government Commitments

GPS 2021 identifies four Government Commitments that will be delivered through the NLTP across total investment in activities. The four priority programmes are:

- Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP)
- Let’s Get Wellington Moving (LGWM)
- Road to Zero (around 70 percent of improvements will be outside of Wellington and Auckland)
- Implementing the New Zealand Rail Plan.

INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

The strategic priorities of GPS 2021 are supported by guiding principles that underpin how investments should be made:

- decisions need to be transparent
- decisions need to represent value for money
- decisions need to make the most of our existing system but use planning and lead investment (where necessary) to build a better future
- use innovation.