



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY  
WAKA KOTAHI

# Accessibility planning - Making travel affordable and sustainable

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# Presentation summary

1. Strategic context
2. Key concepts – Access, mobility, accessibility and sustainability
3. What is accessibility planning? (background/process)
4. Accessibility planning and walking and cycling
5. Accessibility planning in the NZ context

# 1. Strategic context

## High level, cross government themes

- Efficiency and effectiveness of existing infrastructure and services
- Improving front line services
- Value for money
- Reducing inequalities in provision of service
- Improving access to services

# 1. Strategic context – cont'd

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- Improved central-local government relationships, including understanding of policy implications on local level implementers
- Better information provision, including new tools/ways of doing so

# 1. Strategic context – cont'd

## Transport priorities as contained in the GPS (Government Policy Statement - May 2009)

Economic productivity and growth via:

- Well targeted infrastructure investment
- Better use of existing infrastructure
- Integrated planning
- Improved journey time reliability
- Reduced congestion
- Better access to markets, employment and areas that contribute to economic growth



# 1. Strategic context – cont'd

- A secure and resilient transport network
- Reduction in deaths and serious injuries as a result of road crashes
- More transport choices, particularly for those with limited access to a car where appropriate
- Reductions in adverse environmental effects from land transport
- Contributions to positive health outcomes

# 1. Strategic context – cont'd

Included in the government's transport objectives are the following outcomes:

- Assisting economic development
- Assisting safety and personal security
- Improving access and mobility
- Protecting and promoting public health
- Ensuring environmental sustainability

(Land transport management act 2003)

## 2. Key concepts – Access, mobility, accessibility and sustainability

### Mobility

‘ease of movement’

e.g. on foot, car, cycle, bus, plane etc

### Access/Accessibility

‘relates to ease of reach’,

i.e. Ease/level of access to key ‘opportunities’,  
health care, employment, education, shopping etc

## 2. Key concepts – Access, mobility, accessibility and sustainability - contd

### Sustainability

The economic, social, environmental needs and aspirations of society are interdependent.

We need to ensure that a balance can be achieved in planning to achieve desired and necessary outcomes in these areas.

(Bruntland, G., 1987).

## 2. Key concepts – Access, mobility, accessibility and sustainability – contd

### Relationship between concepts

#### **Accessibility, mobility**

Mobility is an aspect of accessibility

Mobility does not always ensure good accessibility

#### **Accessibility & sustainability**

Accessibility is an enabler of greater sustainability

### 3. What is accessibility planning?

- An integrated planning approach that identifies, measures and addresses barriers that can impede or prevent access to key ‘opportunities’
- Used in the UK as a mandatory part of the Local Transport Planning process

## 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

Looks at the interaction between the following elements:

- Key population groups (origins)
- Key services (destinations)
- Networks (transport, virtual)
- ('Whole of journey approach')

# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

Barriers to access can include:

- geographic location of origins/destinations
- availability of transport alternatives
- physical accessibility of places/transport
- travel cost
- travel time
- knowledge
- personal safety and security concerns

(Centre for Transport Studies 2006)

# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

So how does it work?

5 stage process.....

Summarised as follows:



## 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

- Core national/regional/local indicators developed
- Priorities agreed across portfolio's
- Options to address accessibility issues agreed
- Action plan for implementation finalised
- Monitoring and evaluation (against indicators)

# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

## National/regional/local - Assessment and mapping

- Looks at existing central/local government policies/strategies/indicators
- Establishes accessibility priorities

i.e. Access to healthcare

Access to education

Access to employment

Access to leisure/cultural activities

Access to food/shopping

# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

## Looks at existing data/mapping

Census, land use records, deprivation index, mapping data, transport network information, GIS, qualitative information

## To assess

- who lives where and what their transport/access needs are and their current level of access to 'opportunities'
- provision of services in an area
- transport networks/services



# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

## Examples of indicators

### Access to education

- % of population of primary school children able to access school within 30 mins. by public transport
- % of primary school children with access to school by walking/cycling
- % of tertiary students able to access their local University/Polytechnic within 30 mins by car/pt/walk/cycle

# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

## Accessibility strategy/action plan

Some examples of initiatives of UK initiatives include:

**Physical**            Accessible vehicles and stations  
                          (Public transport)  
                          Driver training (Public transport)  
                          Improvements to the walking environment

**Safety from traffic**    Traffic calming areas  
                                  Safer play areas  
                                  Improved pedestrian crossings

# 3. What is accessibility planning? cont'd

## Location and scheduling of services

- More accessible location of new services

- Co-location of services

  - Scheduling of health appointments to coincide with transport

  - Staggered school start times

  - Use of IT and communication technology and home delivery

  - Outreach to remote communities



## 4. Accessibility planning and walking and cycling

NZTA assists local authorities to enable increased walking and cycling via:

- Provision of guidance
- Funding of infrastructure development/improvements
- Educational programmes



## 4. Accessibility planning and walking and cycling

Accessibility planning could assist with the targeting of our interventions to ensure they enable better access to key opportunities, via:

- Identifying barriers to access via walking and cycling
- improvements to pedestrian and cycling facilities
- Information provision i.e. location of walk/cycle friendly routes
- Identification of walk/cycle friendly environments/populations/destinations



# Accessibility planning and walking and cycling cont'd

- Identification of where to run training programmes and for whom
- Influencing the location of origins and destinations to make them more accessible via walking and cycling



## 5. Accessibility planning in the NZ context

- First trial underway in Gisborne
- Will complement local planning processes
- NZTA – Gisborne District Council working in partnership
- Strategic assessment process underway
- About to commence mapping and indicator development
- Followed by national/regional stakeholder engagement

## 5. Accessibility planning in the NZ context

- Challenging as this is the first time the approach has been trialled in NZ (some data limitations) – evolving process
- Great potential to maximise/enhance existing networks
- Will be used as a planning tool to assist land use planning decisions
- Great potential for to increase the use of public transport, community transport and walking and cycling initiatives

# Conclusion

- Transport is a means to an end: Access
- Holistic approach important to ensuring good access

## Accessibility planning:

- Enables us provide for improved access in the long term, via:
- Assisting us to target our interventions/measure improvement – value for money
- Enabling more transport choices – including walking, cycling, Public transport
- Enabling greater access to frontline services