



Future of Transport Pre-Consultation Community Engagement Final Report Summary

This is a summary of the key messages we heard during the Future of Transport pre-consultation community engagement carried out from 15 March 2023 to 30 April 2023.

The purpose of this community engagement was to provide information to inform policy development of a Better Transport Choices for Taranaki strategy by the Council and inform the development of Speed Management Plans by New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

Community feedback was sought in the four key areas identified below. In addition to these focus areas, respondents had the opportunity to provide feedback on any other issues of importance to them.

- Road safety and speed management.
- Long-term vision for transport in Taranaki.
- Public transport (including buses and rail).
- Cycling, walking and active travel.

Total Responses

Across all engagement channels, a total of 1,805 surveys, comments and submissions were received. The depth and richness of feedback varied between response channels: the online survey generated an estimated 15,000 individual pieces of feedback via 49 questions, while online map comments were single comments, generating 1,154 pieces of feedback.

Travel Habits

When asked to specify the main reason for travel these were the top six responses:

1. Travel to work
2. Shopping
3. Leisure
4. Study
5. Taking children to education/activities
6. Connection with friends/whanau

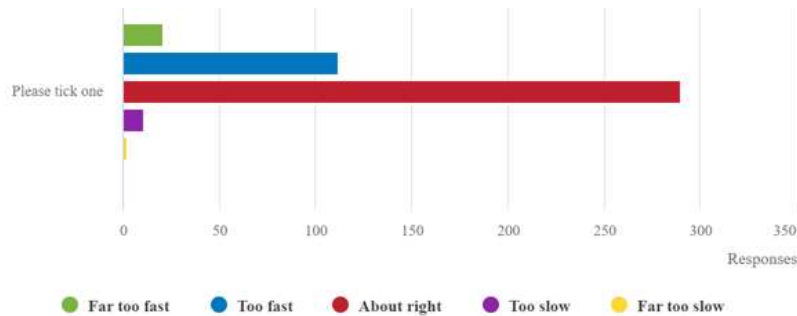
Travel by car (41%) was ranked the most frequently used mode of transport followed by bike/scooter (29%), walking (14%) and then motorbike (7%).

Slightly more than half (54%) of online survey respondents travelled 10km or less for their daily commute and 74% travelled under 20km to and from work or school each day.

What We Heard About Road Safety and Speed Management

When asked 67% of respondents stated they were either concerned or very concerned about safety on our local roads (not including state highways). Driver distraction (mobile phones), road/roadside condition and driver impairment were the top three stated concerns.

The vast majority of respondents commented that the current speed limits on local roads were about right as shown in the graph below.



In answer to the question: "How willing would you be to accept slightly longer car journey times if this helped to make local roads safer for all people?", 66% of online survey respondents indicated they were either very willing or willing to accept longer journey times for safety improvements.

A significant volume of data was collected about speed and safety concerns at specified locations and this data has been provided to local councils to inform the development of their speed management plans.

What We Heard About the Long-Term Vision for Transport in Taranaki

Level of support for proposed goal to reduce car journeys

We asked respondents how supportive they were of a goal to reduce the number of car journeys in Taranaki by 25% by 2033 to help make roads safer and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of respondents (76%) were either wholly or generally supportive.

Ranked transport long-term change priorities

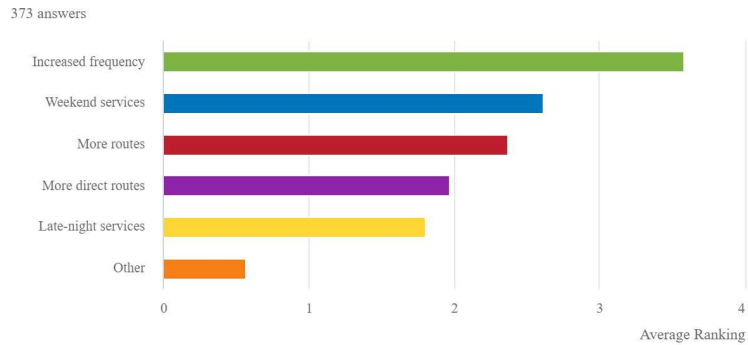
When asked to rank 10 specified transport improvements in order of importance the top three responses were:

1. More bus routes/services
2. Improvement in road surfaces and
3. Improved cycling options.

Respondents indicated that their preferred time scale to see the ranked improvements happen was 3-5 years (57%) and 36% indicated a time scale of 5-10 years.

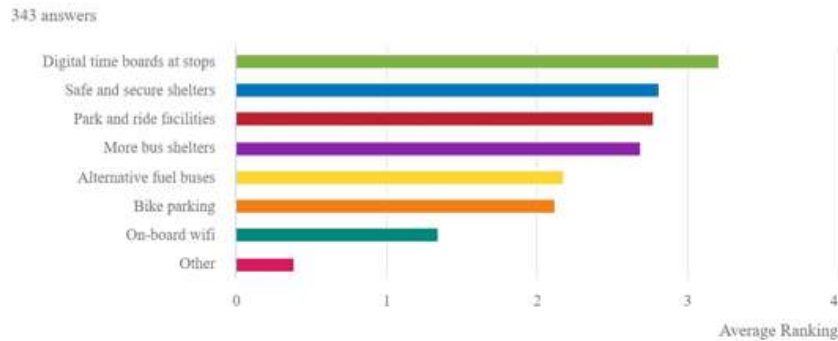
What We Heard About Public Transport

When respondents were asked to rank the potential service improvements they would like to see with bus transport **increased frequency** in bus services was the top ranking response followed by weekend services and an increase in the number of routes as shown below.



If these improvements were implemented around 80% of respondents indicated that they would be more likely to start getting the bus.

Survey respondents were asked to rank a specified list of bus infrastructure improvements by their importance and the graph below shows results.

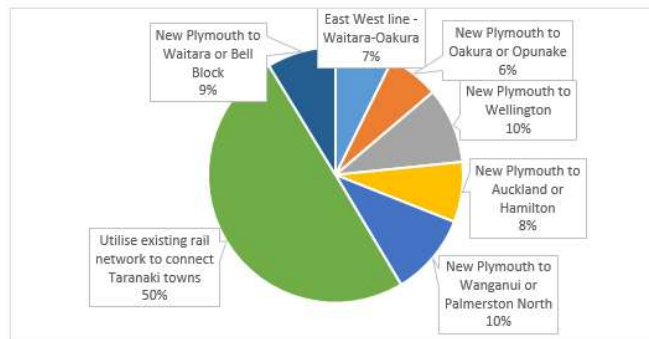


What We Heard About Public Passenger Rail Services

When asked, 79% of respondents would like to see passenger rail service established in Taranaki. Respondents were also asked to consider the cost of a rail service in this question: "Taking into account the main barrier to creating a passenger train service is the high cost of creating the infrastructure, would you be willing to contribute via rates for this?" 63% of respondents stated "Yes".

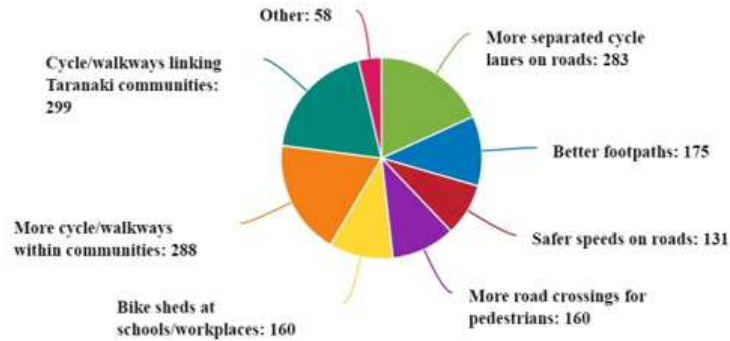
Communities to connect via passenger rail service

In response to the question: "If there was a passenger train service, which communities should this connect?" half of the 345 respondents (50%) indicated that they would like to see services that utilise the existing Taranaki rail network between Hāwera and New Plymouth. This and other preferred community connections are shown in the graph below.

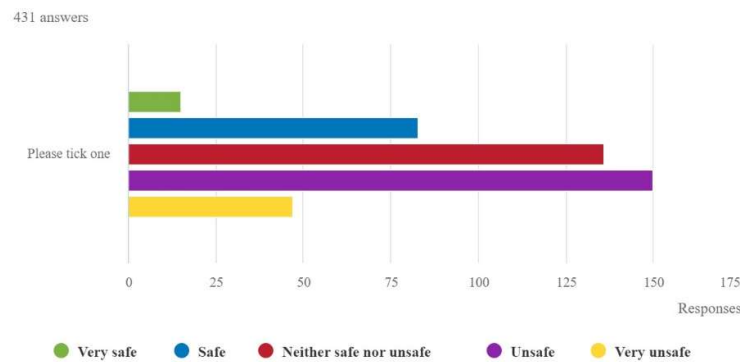


What We Heard About Cycling, Walking and Active Travel

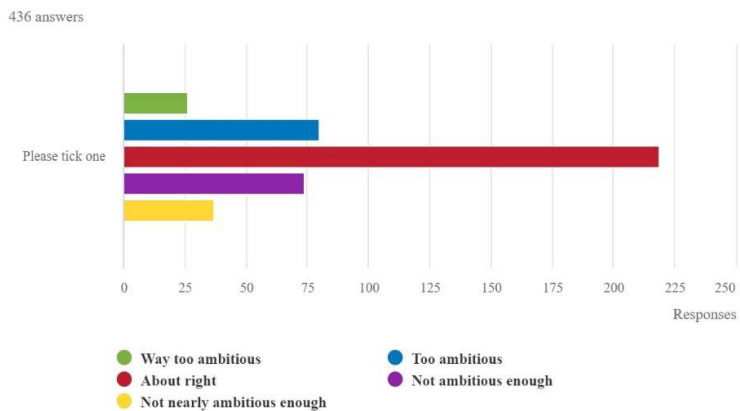
Almost 80% of online survey respondents would like to walk, cycle or travel actively more in their daily lives, and the graph below shows what respondents identified as the priorities for improving active transport opportunities.



We asked respondents how safe/confident they felt about walking or cycling to school or work. Of those who responded, 25% felt safe or very safe, 31% neither safe nor unsafe 35% of stated they felt unsafe with 10% feeling very unsafe as shown in the graph below.



When we asked respondents if a proposal to double the number of journeys by walking, cycling or other active travel to school and work by 2033 ambitious or not ambitious enough 50% responded that this ambition was about right. A further 25% stated this was not or not nearly ambitious enough with 25% stated this was too or way too ambitious.



Level of Support for Specified Measures for Improving Active Travel

In response to the question "Would you support initiatives to improve the safety of people who walk or ride a bike by reducing vehicles' speeds, removing parking spaces and other safety measures on some roads?", 72% of online survey respondents were either 100% or generally supportive.

