



TRANSPORT IN TARANAKI - THE BIG PICTURE

Have your say on the region's transport priorities for the next 10 years

We're talking about land transport infrastructure (roads, highways, shared paths and the like), public transport and transport links.

We need to decide how to best invest time and money in these areas to ensure Taranaki can remain vibrant, resilient and connected amid the challenges brought by climate change, economic disruptions and transformation, population shifts and any natural crises like major storms.

We welcome your submission on the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2024.

Please visit www.trc.govt.nz/transport2024

What we're asking

**we want
your views
on five key
aspects**

- 1 Vision
- 2 Targets
- 3 Immediate priorities
- 4 Future sustainability
- 5 Resilience of transport networks

But first, are you on the right page?

Our conversation here is about Taranaki's wider plans and goals relating to the transport network. It's not a discussion about the state of the roads or the bus services you use.

District councils are responsible for local roads, and they will all be consulting the public on their Long-Term Plans, so if you want to comment on this sort of thing, head to your local council's website.

- New Plymouth District Council consultations: <http://tinyurl.com/yjep2vuk>
- Stratford District Council consultations: <http://tinyurl.com/3uxn3bmw>
- South Taranaki District Council consultations: <http://tinyurl.com/48jyvc5s>

If you want to give feedback on the future of local public transport services, make a submission on Taranaki Regional Council's Long-Term Plan coming up for consultation 10 Mar–12 Apr 2024.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is responsible for state highways – call 0800 4 HIGHWAYS if you have any state highways feedback. More information here: <http://tinyurl.com/592j2w84>

What does success look like?

Our suggested vision is this:

Thirty-year vision

A vibrant, resilient and connected region, with a safe transport system enhancing liveable places

Does this match your vision? Can you suggest a better vision? Let us know. Go to www.trc.govt.nz/transport2024 and make a submission.

Three targets are proposed to help us head toward this vision:

Ten-year headline targets

Improving safety

A 40% reduction in deaths and serious injuries

Increasing mode shift

More trips made by walking, cycling and public transport

Improving reliable connectivity

Less travel disruption for road traffic

Do you agree with these targets? Let us know. Go to www.trc.govt.nz/transport2024 and make a submission.

See more about our proposed vision, objectives and targets by viewing our [strategic framework summary](#).

What are our immediate priorities?

Our Draft Regional Land Transport Plan lists major upcoming projects in this order of funding priority:

1. **A step-change in public bus services** from October 2025 (as the current three public transport contracts for Citylink, Connector and Southlink come up for renewal in September 2025). What these improved services will look like is being considered during the current 2024/25 financial year.
2. **Further safety improvements on SH3 and SH3A** including Waitara to Bell Block, New Plymouth to Egmont Village, and New Plymouth to Hāwera – in addition to those improvements already committed to.
3. **Further work on the New Plymouth Integrated Transport Framework** which is taking a whole-of-system view to demonstrate the case for change and the need for investment in New Plymouth's wider transportation network.
4. **Upgrades of the SH3 intersections with both Kerry Lane and Fitzgerald Lane** in Hāwera, to cope with increased traffic volumes due to the South Taranaki Business Park development.
5. Building **two Commercial Vehicle Regional Safety Centres** as part of a national program to address heavy commercial vehicle compliance. Includes shifting and upgrading the facility at the SH3/3A intersection, plus a new site around Inglewood.

Note that these are just immediate priorities for larger projects that have been proposed to start in the next three financial years (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027). Proposed maintenance and minor improvements to our land transport system are automatically included in the Plan without ranking as they are looking after our base asset and are the highest priority.

When this list of priorities is finalised, it will be presented to Waka Kotahi for consideration in the next funding round. Are the projects in the right order? Are there any missing from the list? Let us know. Go to www.trc.govt.nz/transport2024 and make a submission.

Looking to the future

We need to do the work now to ensure our transport networks are as resilient and reliable as possible, given what lies ahead of us:

With **climate change**, we can expect more severe storms and winds that can cause significant damage to roads, highways and other infrastructure. Rising sea levels will have a relatively small impact on SH3 north and SH45. There is also the ever-present possibility of earthquakes and volcanic eruption. Given what funding is available, can we respond to these issues proactively, rather than reactively?

Climate change also highlights the need for a **more sustainable transport system** which will bring **significant changes to the way ourselves and our goods move from one place to another**. This will affect everybody – households, communities, workplaces. It's not just an issue for transport planners and funders. Our current networks consume large amounts of non-renewable resources such as land, aggregates and fuel. Future congestion issues will have to be managed with measures to alter travel demand, rather than reaching for an engineering solution. And the Climate Change Commission proposes a halving of transport emissions by 2035, to be achieved with the adoption of electric vehicles and by changing travel behaviour. Regional work is well under way in this space through a range of initiatives such as Better Travel Choices for Taranaki which includes a range of proposals including significant improvements to public bus services.

Much of our network is outdated. Our roads and highways weren't originally designed for vehicles of the size and weight that use them today. This is already an issue in forestry areas, and efforts are already under way to move logs onto rail wherever possible.

Much of our **roading infrastructure is at the end of its life**. A large number of bridges, retaining walls and culverts will need costly replacement within the next few years. Their value needs careful assessment.

We believe that addressing these issues is likely to require significant public funding (from ratepayers and taxpayers) as well as potentially profound changes in the way we all use transport networks in our daily lives, at home and at work. Do you agree? To what degree would you accept the economic and social impacts of making our transport networks resilient and sustainable? Go to www.trc.govt.nz/transport2024 to have your say.

Make your views known

Submissions on the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki close at 4pm on **Saturday, 16 March**, with any verbal submissions to be heard on Thursday, 18 April 2024.

The easiest way to make a submission is online. You can also email your submission, post or deliver it in hard-copy form. To organise a hard-copy version please call 0800 736222. **If you're planning a written or emailed submission, be sure to indicate which issue or question that each of your comments relates to.**

Online - Go to www.trc.govt.nz/transport2024

Email - Send to haveyoursay@trc.govt.nz Be sure to include 'Regional Land Transport Plan submission' in the subject line.

Post - Send your submission to:

Regional Land Transport Plan submission
The Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

Deliver - Ensure your submission is in an envelope clearly marked 'Regional Land Transport Plan submission' and bring to the Council office at 47 Cloten Road, Stratford.

Any Feedback?

Email us at info@trc.govt.nz with any concerns or suggestions.