

Ten Kapiti schools have completed the survey process and have developed a school travel plan. From the plans a wide range of infrastructural improvements have been implemented at schools, including courtesy, pedestrian and kea crossings, footpath improvements, intersection modification, car parks, kiss and drop off areas, bike lanes and other safety features. The travel plans also engage the school community in various volunteer activities, including crossing patrols, walking school bus drivers, cycle training volunteers and cycle train leaders. Other initiatives include car pooling, walking groups and working with students via inquiry based learning methods.

Waikanae School Survey Summary December 2011

During the survey period the school roll was 505.

57% of children are driven to school in the family car (267 on average per day) this is relatively high for Kapiti (but responds to Waikanae School's large spatial footprint). *In comparison to two schools with active travel plans - Paraparaumu Beach School now at 40% and Raumati South now at 49% (students travelling in the family car).*

59 children walk per day on average, 42 cycle or scooter and 68 catch the bus

Nationally in 1991 only 31% of children were driven to school by their parents but by 2010 it had increased to 59%. Schools or the local infrastructure were not designed to cater for this level of parental car usage. At Waikanae School this has created intense periods of congestion on the 4 residential streets (Seddon, Utauta, Winara Avenue and Hira Street) at drop off and pick up times.

Safety Concerns:

- Parking behaviour – parents parking too close – parking on yellow lines – too close to corners.
- Driving behaviour – speed – backing out of driveways and U turns – Seddon Street and Winara Avenue were highlighted.
- Only one pedestrian crossing at school and yet there are seven entrances on 4 streets. There has been a request for more crossings especially a Kea crossing on Winara Avenue.

- Children crossing between parked cars and at intersections with obscured visibility of road. Drivers can't see children – a history of near misses – with the Seddon Utauta intersection being highlighted.
- The pedestrian phase at the Main Road traffic lights was considered too short (frequently reported by students). Cars allowed to cross through the clearance phase (right from Elizabeth Street) while children are still on the crossing. Children reported being scared.
- No designated cycle lanes separate from road.
- No barrier on rail crossing – children reported a near miss with a freight train and pedestrians crossing whilst bells ringing.
- Bus – the Reikorangi parents and students made consistent comments about the problematic nature of the bus route – parents needing to drive children to bus stops as it was too far and too dangerous for children to walk/cycle on narrow rural roads. Plus the wait of 40 minutes at school in afternoon. Wanted smaller buses or vans that could navigate the narrow rural roads.
- Students (Reikorangi bus) raised the age of the bus, the fumes, oil leaks plus it breaking down.
- Bullying on bus (raised constantly by students, especially on the beach buses) and parents raised concerns about both college and primary students sharing the same bus due to the inappropriate language and conversations of the college students.
- Waikanae and Peka Peka buses were frequently overcrowded with students standing in full aisles.
- It must also be noted that parents made very favourable comments about the bus and their desire for this free service to continue.

Interest in Travel Plan – Parent volunteers

31 people offered to volunteer, 15 to help develop the travel plan, 10 people to aid with crossing patrols, 5 for a walking school bus, 13 for car pooling and promotion days, 12 for cycle training and 21 for advice.

Potential for Action

- ***To develop a school policy for sustainable transport***
- ***Walking School Buses***
- ***Carpooling***
- ***Active transport event and promotions to build a positive active transport culture and to reassure parents of the safety of active transport***
- ***Reward campaigns for students using active transport***
- ***Parent and student education re road safety***
- ***Speed restrictions round school***
- ***Kea Crossing on Winara Avenue***
- ***Assessment for pedestrian crossings round school***
- ***Assessment for pedestrian crossing at Elizabeth Street near dairy and along Te Moana Road***
- ***Improve sight visibility for patrol on Seddon Street – possible increase of yellow lines***
- ***Survey traffic light pedestrian phasing over State Highway 1 with liaison with NZTA***
- ***Liaison with NZTA re another crossing point closer to New World Supermarket***

- *Explore with Rick Van Barveld at KiwiRail re options for gates at pedestrian crossing over rail line*
- *Work with Police re a random enforcement regime*
- *Explore with Dennis Edgecombe Multiserve re changes in the Reikorangi bus routes, modifying the type of buses used i.e. vans or smaller buses and the need to upgrade the current bus. To explore the option of more buses on the beach routes and the possibility of having separate buses for college and primary students.*
- *Supervision on buses – possibly student lead anti bullying programme*

Long term

- *Cycle tracks and paths*
- *Overbridge/subway over State Highway and rail corridor*
- *Bus shelters*

.1.1 Parents Concerns

Locations, and concerns, which were mentioned frequently as being of concern were:

Streets directly outside school

Outside school (Seddon, Utauta, Winara, Hira) not enough parking or too many parents driving their children to school (n 23)

- Traffic congestion
- Parking too close and both sides of road – children stepping out between cars – lack of visibility for children crossing
- Parents parking illegally on yellow lines, corners, double parking or parking in middle of road
- Children getting out of the wrong side of car – road rather than footpath

- Parents doing U turns in dangerous places
- Parents backing round corners
- Footpaths on one side of road - children then pressured to cross at intersections
- Problems at intersections with lack of visibility

Outside school (Seddon, Utauta, Winara, Hira) cars speeding (n3)

- Even children on crossing could get hit
- Children stepping out between cars and cyclists on road
- Footpaths only on one side of road, forcing children to cross at intersections

Seddon Street (n16)

- Parents don't model safe crossing (i.e. using patrolled crossing).
- Children not using patrolled crossing
- Cars parking too close to pedestrian crossing restricting patrol visibility
- Cars doing U turns, turning in school entrance
- Congested – parking on corners
- Cars backing out of driveways

Winara Avenue (n 20)

- Cars travelling too fast – unsafe for children to cross
- No safe crossing point either pedestrian or Kea crossing
- Visibility - children crossing between parked cars
- Busy and congested road – u turning traffic

Utauta Street (n 9)

- Narrow road – people park on yellow lines
- No safe crossing point either pedestrian or Kea crossing
- Visibility - children crossing between parked cars
- The intersection at Seddon Street is difficult to navigate; due to lack of visibility round corner and road angles – high risk – parents have observed frequent near miss situations
- Footpath on one side only – pressures children and parents to cross at intersection

- Busy and congested road

Hira Street (n 5)

- No safe crossing point either pedestrian or Kea crossing
- Visibility - children crossing between parked cars
- Busy and congested road
- Hard to see round corners when crossing

Local Roads and State Highway (Main Road)

Elizabeth Street (n 3)

- No safe crossing point for children to get to Dairy
- No safe crossing to get to Seddon Street or Winara Avenue

State Highway 1 (Main Road) (n 30)

- Not safe for cycling or walking along
- The green man pedestrian phase is too short – children get scared when red man flashes (Clearance phase)
- Cars driving through the pedestrian green man phase – illegal driving
- Cars driving through red lights
- Right turning traffic from Elizabeth Street allowed to turn through the red flashing clearance phase both illegally and due to phasing being too short
- Children and adult pedestrians not crossing at lights
- No crossing at the New World end so children cross anyway
- Children having to wait too long at lights for pedestrian phase and running across – high risk
- No subway or bridge across road

Railway Crossing (n 3)

- Freight trains travel fast
- No arm or barrier to prevent a child making a mistake at rail crossing – too easy to walk on line

Te Moana Road (n 3)

- No pedestrian crossing it's entire length
- Cars pulling out in front of cyclists and backing out of driveways

Bus routes

Reikorangi Bus (n 8)

- Too far to walk to bus stop – need to drive children to Mangaone South and Ngatiawa Road intersections – bus doesn't access Terrace and Kents Road
- Route doesn't service where people live – current stops leave children needing to walk on narrow dangerous roads. Bus needs to travel along Mangaone South, Ngatiawa, Rangiora, Kents, Terrace and Reikorangi/Akatarawa Roads
- Children have to travel with college students – language and conversations inappropriate
- Children waiting for Reikorangi Bus have to wait 40 minutes at school gate

Waikanae Beach and Peka Peka Bus (n 8)

- Children have to travel with college students – language and conversations inappropriate (Peka Peka Bus)
- Bullying on bus
- Buses are over full

Parent's concerns are listed in full in Appendix A.

.1.2 Students Concerns

Through the Mapping Our Travel exercise students identified issues that affected their journey to school. The main concerns of the students at the school were:

Around the School

- Broken glass on footpaths – Winara, Pehi Kupa, Elizabeth, Te Moana
- Stones on footpath – Winara Road – a boy fell off his scooter
- Cars driving too fast round school
- Dangerous crossing the roads - no pedestrian crossings on Winara Avenue, Hira or Utauta Street

- Unsafe for cyclists – not enough cycle lanes or cycle paths
- Dangerous trying to cross the road – hard to see with too many cars parking – on yellow lines – near corners – too close together
- Cars backing out of driveways- have hit children - Seddon and Winara
- The road patrol can't see because cars park too close

Elizabeth Street

- There are too many cars
- There is no pedestrian crossing to the dairy

State Highway

- There needs to be another crossing at the New World end
- At the traffic lights the green man phase is too short (multiple comments)
- Get scared when red flashing man comes on
- Cars drive through when you are still crossing
- Traffic turning right from Elizabeth drive through while you are still crossing

Bus

- Bullies on the bus – both college students and older students (multiple comments)
- Children push the buzzer and then deny it – stressing driver (multiple comments)
- The Reikorangi Bus breaks down and smells of oil (multiple comments)
- The Reikorangi Bus is too wide for the narrow roads
- There are not enough seats on the Waikanae Beach buses – they become overcrowded
- No bus shelters Reikorangi, Waikanae Beach and Peka Peka
- No seat belts on bus

Railway crossing

- Nearly been hit by a train
- Railway crossing is dangerous, there is no barrier and the trains go very fast (multiple comments)
- No barrier to stop you crossing – people run over when bells are going
- Trains (freight) too fast

Cycling

- Not enough cycle lanes
- Narrow roads

Suggestions for Improvements

.1.3 Children's suggestions

Travelling to School

- We need to reduce the speed limit round the school
- There needs to be Walking School Buses – with teachers and parents
- Build a pedestrian or Kea crossing on Winara Avenue
- We need more pedestrian crossings
- Build more cycle lanes – separate from the road – improve river trail so can ride from Waikanae Beach to school
- Build wider cycle lanes
- Build wider footpaths that we (cyclists) could share with pedestrians
- Supply wet weather gear
- Our parents need to let us walk
- Have a reward programme and competitions for people who use active transport. Give rewards for fitness and health
- We should be allowed to ride horses to school
- People need to trim bushes that block the footpath and sweep stones off the footpath

State Highway (Main Road)

- Make the pedestrian phase on the State Highway traffic lights longer – have no cars drive through while we walk
- Have the Green Man operate the whole time we walk
- Build another crossing closer to New World
- Build either a subway or bridge across the Main Road and Railway Tracks

Railway line

- Build a barrier arm or gate that closes when a train comes at either end of the railway station
- Build a bridge or subway

Bus

- More bus shelters – Reikorangi, Waikanae Beach and Peka Peka
- More buses so they are no longer overcrowded
- Separate bus for college and primary students
- A smaller bus or van that can travel further up the valley and all the Reikorangi roads

.1.4 Parents suggestions

Streets outside school

- Zebra or Kea crossing on Winara Avenue
- Parent volunteers to assist children cross on roads without pedestrian crossings – including Te Moana Road

- Put zebra crossings on all the streets
- Footpaths on both sides of streets, with designated crossing points
- More parking round school – change Utauta Street to angle parking and one lane

Parental parking behaviour

- More children cycling and walking
- Police enforcement – increased presence – random checks - ticketing
- Education campaign for parents
- Yellow lines on corners and along road from pedestrian crossing to aid visibility for patrol

Speed round school

- Lower speed limit round school – suggestions include down to 20km/h
- Enforcement – speed cameras – random police patrols – demerit points
- Education campaign

Parental education

- How safe and easy the bus service is
- Reassurance about the safety of walking – challenging fears of stranger danger

Student education

- Cycling education
- Cycle maintenance
- Keeping self safe

- Road safety education
- Educating children to walk across roads pushing cycles

State Highway (Main Road)

- Bridge or subway across highway and rail
- Longer pedestrian phasing on traffic lights
- Parents supervising crossing