



Travel planning

About ViaStrada

ViaStrada is a transport planning and design consultancy based in Christchurch.

We provide professional services for national, regional and local authorities as well as for private clients throughout New Zealand and Australia. Our main service areas are:

- transportation policy and planning
- traffic engineering
- safety auditing and peer reviews
- planning and design for cycling and walking
- intersection design and modelling
- industry training
- network planning.

To find out more about us, and other projects we've worked on, get in touch or visit our website.



What we do

- provide travel planning services for primary and intermediate schools
- conduct site audits and surveys to establish current activity, identify issues and suggest opportunities for improvement
- coordinate community and stakeholder engagement events
- develop plans and brochures suitable for schools, parents, councils and other stakeholders.

Travel plans help people make choices about their journey to school or work. They're a collaboration between the council, a school or workplace, active travel professionals, and partners in road safety, health and physical activity.

A school travel plan provides an opportunity for parents, caregivers, the school and community to work together to improve the wellbeing, safety and educational outcomes of students. A workplace travel plan provides information relevant to individual staff journeys and identifies opportunities to improve facilities.

Typically, an initial survey reveals how people travel: car, public transport, bike, walk — or a combination of those. The information helps us identify barriers to change and gives a base from which to develop potential solutions. Barriers can relate to poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities but can also reflect a need for education. For younger children, learning how to cross roads and take care around driveways is key, while bicycle skills training is offered to older children and less confident adults.

Project profiles



We develop plans that identify achievable minor improvements, along with broader changes that take into account long-term funding and planning requirements. Our expertise in school travel planning aligns well with government's expectations for reduced speeds around schools. Some of our recent client projects are:

Palmerston North District Council

2017 Reviewed Palmerston North City Council's Bikes in Schools programme to determine whether goals and objectives had been met including: strategic planning, programming and implementation, finance, ongoing delivery and educational aspects of the programme.

2018—20 Developed School Travel Plans for five schools. We worked with Council's project engineer and planner, school principals, NZ Police and the regional sports and recreation body to gather data and observations. Information from resulting audits, surveys, stakeholder meetings and student/public engagement were used to inform a plan for each school.

Hastings District Council

2016—17 Developed School Travel plans for nine schools within the district, and assisted the Council with their own Workplace Travel Plan. The School Travel Plans formed part of the Hastings iWay 10-year plan—a focused investment in cycling infrastructure, education and encouragement—which ViaStrada also helped develop.

Dunedin City Council

2017—18 Undertook a study aimed at addressing road safety issues around a cluster of five central-city schools. We made recommendations for infrastructure treatment solutions that provide a better environment for a broader range of travel options, and make active transport more feasible.

For more information regarding travel planning, contact John Lieswyn.

John is a specialist in school and workplace travel planning. Based on his experience with school travel plans in the US, in 2016 he set up the New Zealand Travel Planners group with 24 members representing 14 local authorities. John curates the group's website, collating resources and case studies. The group's listserv provides a forum for the exchange of best practices in school and workplace travel planning. John frequently presents to elected members and coordinates public engagement events. His skills relevant to this area include:

- travel and behaviour change initiatives and research
- travel demand management
- strategy and policy development, including bicycle and pedestrian master plans
- active transport network development.

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