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New guide to help employers cut costs and reduce crashes

Land Transport New Zealand and ACC have launched a new resource to help New Zealand employers keep their staff safe on the road.

The new *Your safe driving policy* guide is designed as a hands-on resource for all organisations with staff who drive for work. It covers a wide range of topics, from driver training and choosing safer vehicles, to dealing with fatigue and distraction and reducing fuel costs.

Last year, road crashes cost New Zealand businesses \$250 million in insurance claims alone. Land Transport NZ Chief Executive Wayne Donnelly said companies could reduce these costs and better protect their staff and vehicles by putting safe driving policies in place.

'We all know that the cost of road crashes in New Zealand is too high, in both human and dollar terms. Adopting a formal safe driving policy is a simple and effective way for companies to reduce the risk of crashes, and improve their bottom line at the same time.

'Safe driving policies are easy to set up and the pay-offs can be huge – not only in the direct savings from cutting crash-related costs, but also by improving your company's reputation in the community and improving staff health and morale. This guide has sound advice for every New Zealand company with staff who drive, from large corporations to the smallest business,' said Wayne.

Your safe driving policy provides step-by-step guidance and profiles organisations that have made progress on road safety and efficiency.

The facts

A 2007 survey of people who made ACC claims as a result of work-related road injuries showed that:

- >> 20 percent of drivers were not wearing seatbelts at the time
- >> 20 percent of drivers had been convicted of a traffic offence in the 12 months before the crash.

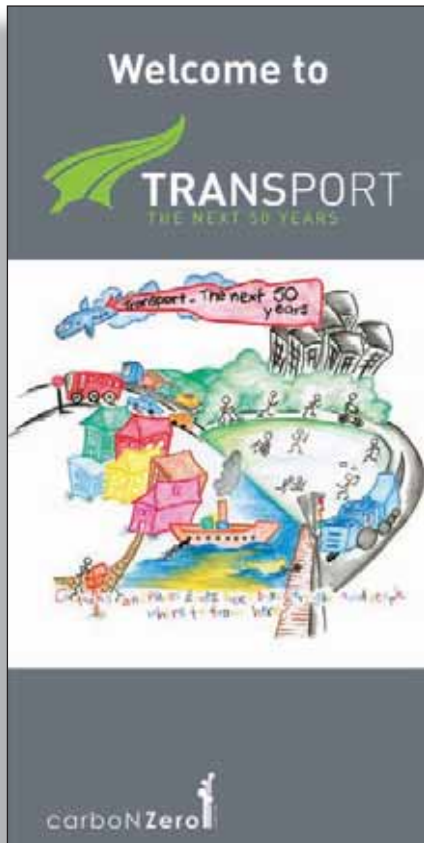
Of those involved in single-vehicle crashes, around half said factors such as stress, fatigue and distraction contributed to the crash.⁵

5. Gillian Robb et al (2007) A descriptive study of non-fatal work-related motor vehicle traffic crash injury. ACC, Wellington, p vii.

To order a copy of *Your safe driving policy*, call the Land Transport NZ contact centre on 0800 699 000 or download a copy from www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/safe-driving/.

Transport – the next 50 years

Over 600 delegates from around the world convened in Christchurch recently for an international conference on the future of transport.



Organised by Land Transport NZ, the Ministry of Transport, Transit New Zealand, the Civil Aviation Authority, Maritime New Zealand and Local Government New Zealand, *Transport – the next 50 years* offered participants three days of presentations from local and international speakers, trade displays and technical tours to local transport-related areas of interest.

Minister of Transport Annette King opened the conference with a presentation examining the 'tyranny of congestion', detailing the unprecedented amount of funding that has been committed to our transport systems, and noting that alternative transport modes will be crucial to solving some of our transport issues in the future.

'The Government is investing heavily to address severe congestion, but we can't just build our way out of it. We need balance across a range of approaches, including public transport, walking, cycling, additional roads and possibly demand management on roads, to reduce congestion meaningfully – even in a time of dynamic growth.

'We need a transport system that provides choice in terms of modes to meet the future needs of all transport users, including our exporters, and that goes a long way to ensuring our future economic prosperity. As Transport Minister, I am committed to working to achieve this,' said Minister King.

On the second day of the conference, Prime Minister Helen Clark spoke about the need for New Zealand to be more environmentally focused and sustainable in our approach to developing good transport systems.

'Imagining the shape of good transport systems in the next 50 years requires good forecasting and analysis, based on the best possible information about economic, social, demographic and technological change – combined with an acute awareness of the ecological constraints within which we will be operating,' the Prime Minister said.

She also commented that 'the way in which we shape our transport system can contribute profoundly to making New Zealand overall more sustainable' and 'the sustainability challenge is a defining issue for the twenty-first century', before issuing the challenge 'that New Zealand aspire to be a truly sustainable nation and be the first country in the world to become carbon neutral'.

Other topics discussed by keynote speakers included:

- the effect of climate change on our transport systems – what we can do now to mitigate the results from extreme weather patterns in the future
- key risks for transport in New Zealand, including the impact of climate change on food miles, tourism and the spread of infection
- increased population and urbanisation
- increased mobility and people making longer trips on the road
- how containers have revolutionised the freight industry
- the need to get better at forecasting
- the increase of CO₂ emissions as transport uses more energy
- worldwide policies around transport issues, sustainability, safety and the environment
- congestion around ports – on land and at sea
- Smart Growth – integrated sustainable land use and transport (people and services being closer together and reducing the need for car travel).

Board approves funding for projects

Last month, the Land Transport NZ Board approved funding for several projects around the country. Land Transport NZ will allocate \$2.4 billion this financial year to improve land transport.

Piarere to Oak Tree Bend (construction funding)

Construction of a 4.3 km realignment of State Highway 1 to the south of the SH 1/SH 29 junction will improve safety and reduce travel times over a length of road recognised as a strategic corridor with a high crash rate. A series of tight radius curves will be brought into line with road standards more consistent with lengths to the north and south.

SH 1 – Rangiriri Bypass (design funding)

The bypass comprises 4.8 km of a new four-lane road bypassing the existing stretch of SH 1, which currently passes through the township. Currently, this section of state highway comprises a series of small radius curves that limit traffic-passing opportunities and cause traffic in most places to bottleneck by gathering behind slower vehicles. As an interim safety measure, a wire rope barrier has been installed to reduce the potential for head-on collisions.

Nelson City – footpaths

Funding was approved for the Nelson City Council to carry out a four-year programme of designing and constructing footpaths on streets that have no pedestrian facilities.

In 2005, the council developed a pedestrian strategy to increase walking as one of the preferred modes of transport. The four-year programme is part of a long-term plan to provide 23 km of streets with footpaths and is targeting key streets within a 1 km walking distance of schools, businesses, centres of employment and shopping centres.

The programme will address a potential safety problem for pedestrians as well as provide for new walking trips along narrow and windy urban roads in Nelson. This programme is complemented by the council's safe journey to school studies, sustainable transport promotions and walk to school promotions.



ARTA integrated ticketing project

The Board also approved funding for the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) to complete their investigation of options for integrated ticketing. Integrated ticketing will enable passengers to purchase a single ticket for travel when using bus and rail services in the Auckland region. The project is part of the Auckland Passenger Transport Network Plan to increase the total number of public transport trips to 100 million per year by 2016.

Operator Rating System on the road

Land Transport NZ staff will be travelling the length of the country to deliver presentations on the Operator Rating System to transport service licence holders this month.

On the road: September 2007 will explain how operator ratings will be calculated and when the first ratings will be made public, and outline upcoming legislative changes.

The Operator Rating System will be in place by mid-2009, providing Land Transport NZ and the New Zealand Police with ratings that can

be used to target resources more effectively within the commercial transport industry.

For more information, visit www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/operator-rating-system/on-the-road.html.



The Hon Harry Duynhoven, Minister for Transport Safety, launched the redeveloped RoadSense – Ata Haere strategy and the RoadSmart DVD with Central Schools in New Plymouth at Pukekura Race Track on 3 September.

Improved school road safety strategy up and running

The redeveloped RoadSense – Ata Haere strategy is now up and running in 158 schools around the country. RoadSense is an educational resource to help primary and intermediate schools integrate road safety lessons into the existing curriculum. The goal of the programme is to reduce the number of children killed and injured on New Zealand roads.

RoadSense is a joint partnership between Land Transport NZ and the New Zealand Police, delivered by facilitators contracted by Educating NZ. RoadSense supports the delivery of road safety in selected primary and

intermediate schools, located in areas with high rates of child injury from road crashes.

The new strategy was developed with the help of participating schools, and was officially rolled out earlier this month at the start of the third school term.

RoadSense focuses on teaching practical road safety lessons through the health and physical education curriculum, and has strong links with the Road Safe Series developed by the Police. A sustainable transport unit has also been developed for the new RoadSense strategy.

A RoadSmart DVD has also been developed as a teaching tool to complement RoadSense and to support schools not currently supported by a facilitator. The DVD will be made available to existing RoadSense schools and to other schools through Police Education Officers.

For more information on RoadSense or to view the new RoadSense handbook, visit www.roadsense.govt.nz.



Trafinz does sustainability

'Sustainability – Just Doing It' was the theme at the 2007 conference of the New Zealand Local Authority Traffic Institute (Trafinz), held in Taupo from 12 to 15 August.

Representing local authority views on road safety and traffic management in New Zealand, Trafinz exists to lobby government and influence decision making on road safety and traffic issues. It also acts as a forum for collectively pursuing traffic issues of interest to local authorities, and for sharing information and advice.

This year, Land Transport NZ partnered with Trafinz to integrate community-focused education and travel planning into the conference agenda.

Participants at the four-day conference enjoyed a full and diverse programme that included speakers from England and the European Union, Australia and New Zealand. Topics discussed included the importance of partnerships, integrating education and engineering, and the need for attention to value for money.

The range of presenters and participants at the conference included MPs, mayors, business innovators, councillors, community groups and school children, engineers, educators and police.

A highlight of the conference was a performance by children from Wairakei Primary School, where every week 135 students 'Walk on Wednesday' as part of the school's philosophy of promoting sustainability to make a difference in their local community.



Wairakei Primary School children perform at Trafinz

Land Transport NZ Board takes trip to Christchurch

Members of the Land Transport NZ Board got a first-hand look at several key regional transport projects in the pipeline on a recent visit to Christchurch.



Accompanied by Chief Executive Wayne Donnelly, members of the senior leadership team and regional staff, the Board visited several sites and spoke to key stakeholders about important initiatives, including: the Christchurch southern motorway extension; the Woodend Bypass; Pegasus Bay township and the northern arterial route; and the Lincoln to Prebbleton cycle trail.

Pegasus Bay, a township just past Woodend, is the site of a planned development of between 1500 and 1800 new houses. The main access into the township is from State Highway 1, and the Board members were keen to look at the impact that many new residential dwellings would have on the highway.

The Board also heard presentations from the five partners of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) – Environment Canterbury, Transit New Zealand, the Selwyn District Council, the Waimakariri District Council and the Christchurch City Council. The UDS takes a long-term outlook (to 2041) and provides a comprehensive context for decision making, including the location of future housing, the development of activity centres, the provision of areas for new employment and the impact of land use change on transportation networks.

The Board also got to experience a roadside commercial vehicle compliance survey first hand.

The onsite survey took place on Johns Road, a main arterial route used heavily by commercial vehicles travelling around the city as well as between industrial sites within Christchurch. All heavy motor vehicles were stopped and compliance checks carried out, including inspections of vehicles, driver licences, logbooks, road user charges (RUC) certificates, safety belts, load weights and security, and the management of dangerous goods.

The survey gave the Board an overview of how the compliance of heavy vehicles is regulated as part of the drive to create a level playing field for all commercial operators, and an understanding of the complexity of freight and people movement in the area. The Board was struck by the high quality of most vehicles and the positive attitude of drivers towards the work Land Transport NZ is doing in this area.

The Board was briefed on other issues during their visit through a presentation from Inspector Derek Erasmus, Road Policing Manager for Canterbury, outlining key issues for road policing in the Canterbury region, and a presentation on the proposed new Christchurch City Bus Exchange.

Fundamentals of planning and design for cycling

Nearly 500 New Zealand transport professionals have now received training in the fundamentals of planning and design for cycling from a tailor-made one-day course.

The course, run by ViaStrada Ltd and developed in conjunction with Land Transport NZ and Transit New Zealand, is intended for those planning, designing and reviewing facilities used by cyclists. The courses are typically attended by engineers, planners, road safety practitioners and cycling advocates.

Axel Wilke and Andrew Macbeth, course presenters and directors of ViaStrada, said the course is designed to give people an appreciation of the complexities and subtleties of planning and designing for cyclists. All course participants are encouraged to go for a 10 km cycle before attending the training course.

'A preliminary cycle ride is a good way of getting across the needs of cyclists to those who are responsible for providing for them professionally,' says Andrew.

Axel says that feedback from course participants has been very positive, with some councils now encouraging their consultants to attend.

Land Transport NZ Senior Engineer Tim Hughes says expanding the capability to develop New Zealand's cycling infrastructure to a good standard is an important goal in the government's *Getting there – on foot, by cycle* strategy.



East Coast Road, North Shore City

'When I travel around New Zealand, I can see the basic skills taught in this training course being applied to an increasing number of projects. The challenge moving forward is to develop those skills further and to develop a similar course for walking.'

For more details about upcoming training courses, visit www.viastrada.co.nz/ fundamentals.

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PO Box 5245, Dunedin 9016

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Cnr Ashley and Ferguson Streets
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Contact centres

General enquiries	0800 699 000
Driver licensing	0800 822 422
Road user charges	0800 655 644
Motor vehicle registration	0800 108 809
Overdimension permits	0800 683 774

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