

16 December 2021

Anatole Sergejew

fyi-request-16797-d875dbc5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora Anatole,

The information you requested - CAS-467162-V2Y4X2

Thank you for your request for information dated 19 September 2021 regarding how the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) and Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) have identified and considered the needs of transport disadvantaged persons.

Section 35 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA) requires Auckland Transport “to consider the needs of persons who are transport-disadvantaged”. The Act also defines this in section 5 as “people who the regional council has reasonable grounds to believe are the least able to travel to basic community activities and services (for example, work, education, health care, welfare, and shopping)”.

The RLTP gave appropriate consideration to the needs of persons who are ‘transport disadvantaged’ by including projects and programmes that direct significant investment towards improving travel options and transport accessibility. Examples include:

- The expansion of the rapid transit network through projects such as City Rail Link and the Rail Development Programme, the Eastern Busway, Northwest busway and elements of Airport to Botany. This extension of high-quality public transport infrastructure provides better travel alternatives to areas of the city which have typically suffered from poor accessibility and car dependency, such as the South and the West, corresponding with areas in Auckland with lower incomes and higher social deprivation.
- A range of other public transport and active modes transport projects in the south, particularly cycling investment in Mangere East and Manukau as part of the Ongoing Cycling Programme.
- A funding allocation of \$40 million to the Accessibility Improvement Programme, which is designed to retrofit public transport infrastructure to improve access for people with disabilities or other accessibility needs. The Accessibility Improvement Project is a key project that secures funding to deliver outcomes identified in the Accessibility Action Plan, with a goal of delivering a transport system which meets the needs of all Aucklanders. The Plan was worked through with key stakeholders and developed two advocacy groups: The Public Transport Accessibility Group and

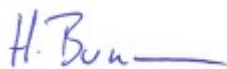
the Capital Projects Accessibility Group, which enable interaction between AT and various accessibility groups and facilitates early involvement in proposals and projects ahead of finalisation.

- Community Connect (pilot) – this will enable a 50 per cent discount on public transport for up to 300,000 Auckland residents with Community Services Cards. This programme is designed to encourage more people to use public transport, particularly those where the cost of public transport is a barrier.
- Other programmes such as the safety, security and amenity improvements on the public transport network will support users with access challenges. Many of the minor programmes funded by the RLTP look to upgrade infrastructure across the network, remove barriers to travel, and ensure better transport outcomes for all Auckland residents.
- Although not strictly the result of the RLTP, design of all new projects will align to AT's Transport Design Manual, which incorporates the requirements of Aucklanders with accessibility needs as part of its design standards.

The Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2018 Appendix 6 (attached) includes an assessment which identifies ten different groups as more likely to be transport disadvantaged and an analysis demonstrating both current and possible future public transport responses for these groups. The RPTP (2018 – 2018) continues to be operative, as its preparation commences after the adoption of the RLTP (in accordance with s126(1)(b) of the LTMA. However, we expect to follow a similar approach to identifying the factors and groups that need to be considered in accordance with the LTMA. The RPTP is due to be updated in 2022.

Should you believe that we have not responded appropriately to your request, you are able to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with section 27(3) of the LGOIMA Act, and seek an investigation and review in regard to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Hamish Bunn
Group Manager – Investment, Planning & Policy