



### Why do we need the Transport System Plan?

We need solutions to cater for growth in the western Bay of Plenty because we don't have the money or space to build more roads. The TSP makes sure that fact-based transport decisions and projects can help achieve bigger plans for the region, such as the Urban Form and Transport Initiative's Connected Centres programme and the SmartGrowth Strategy 2023. The TSP brings together local councils, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, KiwiRail, Port of Tauranga, Priority One and tāngata whenua to make sure transport projects are not done in isolation and that they work for everyone.

### How have the projects been identified?

The TSP is based on facts and in-depth research, including crash statistics, population and employment projections, transport modelling, vehicle emissions and potential conflicts between different ways of moving around. We've looked at the biggest pinch points in our transport system to help us decide which projects will have the biggest benefit to people, communities and businesses and we have tested different options.

### How will the TSP help to guide planning?

The TSP helps to guide investment, design and build projects at the right time, understand what happens to the transport plan as a whole if we make changes. It will make decisions easier and takes a consistent approach to planning and reviews, and it will help us to make policy changes that align land use including new and existing housing, with transport.

### How will the TSP stay on track?

Projects are being monitored to make sure the TSP stays on track. It outlines which projects need to happen and when, and will feed into our local and regional councils' Long Term Plans and the Regional Land Transport Plan. This will make sure funding is secured and work can get started at the right time.



### What current problems is the TSP trying to solve?

- Population and economic growth are causing road congestion already and that is set to get worse if we do nothing. If daily traffic keeps increasing, it will have an effect on our health, wellbeing and way of life and also our economic productivity because our key industries like kiwifruit, agriculture, forestry and fisheries need reliable access.
- There are gaps in the network for walking and cycling, so many people are not choosing this option. Improved connections will encourage more people to walk or cycle and help to normalise travel choices in our lifestyles.
- People in the western Bay of Plenty largely rely on vehicles for travel – we are used to this habit. Adjusting our lifestyles will be difficult, but these changes will become easier with improved connections and better bus services.
- Our unique topography has already created pinch points in our transport system where people driving across town get stuck in local traffic.

### What are the TSP's main goals?

The TSP will make it easier for people to access things like schools, jobs, healthcare and shops in different ways (walking, cycling, buses or vehicles). It will help a cleaner environment by reducing transport-related greenhouse gas emissions, by making sure people can access what they need to without having to travel far, in line with the Government's [Emissions Reduction Plan](#) and VKT reduction targets. It will make travel times more reliable and predictable for freight on roads and by rail, and it will work towards people getting to where they are going safely, following the government's road safety strategy, [Road to Zero](#).

### What will help the TSP succeed?

Working together to achieve frequent, reliable bus services with dedicated bus lanes and priority lanes at important intersections, less vehicles on key corridor roads at off-peak times for reliable freight movements, a network of safe cycling, walking and mobility routes, charging for electric vehicles, bikes and scooters, and giving people good choices to help us improve our environment and reduce emissions from transport.

### How will the TSP address climate change?

Adapting to the impacts of climate change is an important challenge. Our transport network needs to be resilient and we need to manage the risks from natural and human-made hazards. This is a priority for strategic investment. We know that some of the pinch points are susceptible to natural hazards and rising sea levels. Solutions will need to be future-proofed, adaptable and resilient.

