

Browns Bay School – School Travel Plan

Introduction

The TravelWise to School Project began in February 2002 and is the first of its kind in New Zealand. The aim of the project is to develop a school travel plan to address congestion at the school gate and encourage alternative systems of transport. The project has involved extensive consultation with the school and community to identify the key concerns of the safety of the local roads. This has included a strong emphasis on community ownership and participation, which has been fundamental to the success of TravelWise to School.

Browns Bay School

Browns Bay School is a large contributing school situated in historic Browns Bay in North Shore City and has been in existence since 1888. The school occupies a large section between Browns Bay Road and Masterton Road, and is close to the extremely busy and fast road on Beach Road.

The school enjoys strong community support through its parent community, a committed and hardworking Board of Trustees and a very active 'Friends of the School' group. All groups, including students and staff, have contributed to the project and successful achievement of the TravelWise to School programme and the school travel plan for Browns Bay School.

Consultation

The consultation involved a series of steps, which are described below.

Step one: Defining current transport patterns

- ◆ Completion of a questionnaire by the children to find out how they travel to and from school and how they would prefer to travel
- ◆ Parent questionnaire to find out how children travel to and from school and if alternative systems of transport would be considered

Step two: Inviting views on local road safety issues

The next stage involved asking children and parents to identify their issues of concern with regard to local road safety. A key focus to this stage was a three dimensional map of the area which was developed by children and included:

- ◆ Classroom exercises
- ◆ Homework exercise by parents and children to map routes to school and identify issues
- ◆ Two open evenings where parents and local residents were invited to express their views by placing issue cards on the map. This was also supplemented by a questionnaire to the residents

Step three: Developing the School Travel Plan

The School Travel Plan was developed by a monitoring group consisting of staff, Board of Trustees, a parent representative, the Chair of East Coast Bays Community Board and staff from North Shore City Council. The following people all contributed to the plan:

Browns Bay School

Roger Harnett, Principal
 Sara Reid, Teacher
 Jackie Brown, Board of Trustees
 Raewyn Child, Parent
 Andrea Abbott, Parent

East Coast Bays Community Board

Sally Cargill, Chair

North Shore City Council

Tom Morton, Traffic Services Manager
 Phil Consedine, Transport Infrastructure Manager
 Vukasin Sibinovski, Traffic Engineer
 Howerd Booth, Transport Planning Manager
 Gill Weyman, Road Safety Co-ordinator
 Sally Peake, Road Safety Co-ordinator
 Esther Sassenburg, Transport Planner
 Aimee Mackay, Assistant Transport Planner
 Bernie Walsh, Corporate Affairs Adviser

Step four: Consultation

Results of the Consultation

The number of responses from the parents survey from 258 households on behalf of 349 children, which represented about 55% of the total roll.

The first part of the survey looked at how children come to and from school, the time spent on the journey, information about the journey to school, and reasons for car journeys. The results from the survey found that nearly three quarters of pupils were driven to school and slightly less than a third walked to school. A few also came by bicycle or by bus.

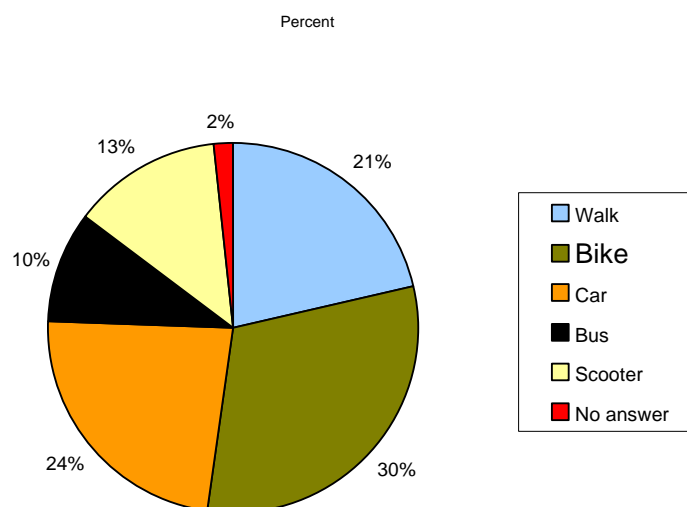
Reasons given for driving to school included:

- ❑ 35% went from home to school to work
- ❑ 17 % went from home to school to somewhere else
- ❑ Distance (73no.)
- ❑ Safety/busy roads (47no.)
- ❑ Time (34no.)

When asked if they would consider alternative modes of transport:

- ❑ 30% of parents would consider car pooling with other families to drive their children to and from school
- ❑ 33% said that their children would use a walking school bus
- ❑ 14% said that they would be willing to volunteer to drive the bus
- ❑ 16% said that if a school bus service was available then they would use it
- ❑ 84% would not allow their children to ride their bicycle to school by themselves

When children of Browns BaySchool were asked how they would like to travel to and from school. They gave the following responses:



Consultation also identified that there were four main roads with problems (Beach Road, Browns Bay Road, Masterton Road, Korotaha Road), the main issues being:

- ❑ Unsafe crossing especially at intersections
- ❑ Lack of footpaths
- ❑ Speed and volume of traffic
- ❑ Congestion and parking

THE PLAN

Aim 1. Improve safety for school children currently walking to school

Objective	Action	Time frame	Stakeholders
To improve the existing walking school bus route	Make provision for a safe crossing of Masterton Road at all times (whether or not the school patrol is operating)	1 month	NSCC – Traffic Services Manager Infrastructure Manager East Coast Bays Community Board
	Investigate options to provide safe crossings at Masterton Road/Korotaha Road/Miri Road/Beulah Terrace	1 month	
	Investigate and address safety issues identified along the route	6 months	
To improve other main routes used by children walking to school	Investigate and address safety issues identified within the block covered by Masterton Road/Rothesay Bay Road/Beulah Avenue/Korotaha Terrace	6 months	NSCC – Traffic Services Manager Infrastructure Manager East Coast Bays Community Board
	Investigate options to provide a safe crossing of Beach Road, focussing on intersections with Bayside Drive and Philson Terrace accessway	1 month	
	Investigate construction of new footpaths as necessary to facilitate safe routes to school and safe road crossings in priority areas	2 months	
	Address maintenance issues in priority areas for safe routes to school	1 months	
To encourage the existing WSB to add a homeward journey	Seek continued and expanded parent support	Ongoing	WSB Co-ordinator

Aim 2. Increase the number of children walking to school

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Stakeholders
To remove the barrier to walking caused by Beach Road	Provide a safe crossing of Beach Road, focussing on intersections with Bayside Drive and Philson Terrace accessway	6 months	NSCC – Traffic Services Manager Infrastructure Manager East Coast Bays Community Board
	Investigate improvements to the pedestrian crossing at Glencoe Road	1 month	
	Investigate additional pedestrian crossings or refuges between Bute Road and Gannet Point	2 months	
To initiate 3 WSB routes	Provide a WSB from Rothesay Bay Road	Completed	School RoadSense Co-ordinator Road Safety Co-ordinator
	Investigate a central car drop-off and WSB bus stop in the shopping centre for travel to and from school	2 months	
	Plan for one other route to be co-ordinated with a new Beach Road crossing	6 months	
To provide information and promote walking to school	Provide regular information on improvements to safety and routes to school	Ongoing	School RoadSense Co-ordinator Road Safety Co-ordinator
	Develop promotional materials eg for new school entrants	1 month	School
	Continue and extend provision of incentives to children who walk	Ongoing	School RoadSense Co-ordinator

Aim 3. To reduce traffic congestion outside the school

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Stakeholders
To promote the school travel policy	Develop promotional materials eg for new school entrants	1 month	School
To investigate ways to reduce congestion	Investigate parking and footpath improvements (and reduced speed)	1 month	NSCC – Traffic Services Manager Infrastructure Manager
To encourage improved parent behaviour	Provide regular reminders on expected behaviour on streets and drop-off bay	Ongoing	School

Aim 4. To improve health of school children through fitness and walking programme

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Stakeholders
To encourage the uptake of fitness and walking programmes	Promote specific events dor this purpose	Twice a year	School
	Design and administer a regular incentive programme (not just for WSB)	Twice a term	
To further promote road safety	Continue with RoadSense programme	Ongoing	RoadSense Teacher
	Police education programmes for road safety	Annually	Police Education officer/ Teachers
	Road safety awards	Annually	School

Aim 5. To explore alternative modes of transport to reduce car travel

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Stakeholders
To encourage car pooling	Promotion through school, Board of Trustees and Friends of the School	Ongoing	School
To encourage the use of bicycles	Continue to provide bicycle licence training	Ongoing	School

Implementing the plan

Browns Bay School, East Coast Bays Community Board and North Shore City Council will jointly implement this plan.

Monitoring the plan

The plan will be monitored on an annual basis, where the monitoring committee will meet to discuss the aims, objectives and targets. Where required new targets will be set.

Criteria for success include:

1. That the number of children travelling to and from school by car are reduced by 10% per annum
2. That numbers of children cycling or walking to school is increased by a total of 10% for the first year and 5% for the following five years
3. That there is a low accident rate for school children in the local vicinity of the school
4. That awareness raising of road safety issues is increased amongst parents
5. That there is an increase in number of road safety programmes in schools
6. That awareness of the local community on the TravelWise to School Project is increased

Conclusions

The Browns Bay School Travel Plan has been developed over a period of approximately a year. It has included a wide range of consultation techniques with the school community to identify the concerns of the local community with regards to traffic safety and promoting alternative modes of transport.

The success of this project can be attributed to work undertaken by staff, pupils, families and Board of Trustees in partnership with North Shore City Council and the East Coast Bays Community Board.

Agreement on the travel plan

We support the Browns Bay School Travel Plan

Name	For School Staff
Date	Date
Name	For Board of Trustees
Date	Date
Name	For Parents
Date	Date
Name	For East Coast Bays Community Board
Date	Date
Name	For North Shore City Council
Date	Date