
INNOVATING STREETS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT REPORT

Purpose of Report

To inform Councillors of the successful application to the Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets for People fund.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

- 1. Receive the Innovating Streets for People Project Report.*
- 2. Note the agreement of Waka Kotahi, NZTA to provide \$179,055 (ex GST) to commence an Innovating Streets for People project in Martinborough and that the 10% SWDC contribution (\$19,985) will be funded from the Infrastructure Reserve, under the CEO delegation.*
- 3. Appoint a Martinborough Ward councillor to participate in the project Governance Team and report back to the Assets and Services Committee.*

1. Executive Summary

In April 2020, Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency launched a pilot fund for Councils to apply for funding to make streets safer and more liveable spaces for people. SWDC applied to the fund and have been successful in securing funding of \$179,055 to start an Innovating Streets project in Martinborough.

2. Background

Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency launched a \$7m fund to assist Councils in making streets safer and accessible for pedestrian and cyclists. Using a Tactical Urbanism approach, which involves engaging with local communities on ideas and temporarily trialing concepts in live environments, provides Councils with the opportunity to test ideas with stakeholders before possibly making further changes. Information on the programme is available on the NZTA Innovating Streets website page [here](#).

An application (Appendix 1) was submitted to the fund to secure funding to explore the possibility of creating more public spaces in and around the Square in Martinborough (option 1 in the application submitted). This would promote the improved movement of residents, visitors and tourists around the town and allow

improved social distancing over the coming months. The original timescales, outlined in the application will not be met but the project is still anticipated to be delivered by the Waka Kotahi deadline of June 2021. The intention to submit an application was noted in the Officers Report to the Assets and Services Committee on the 12th June.

3. Discussion

Waka Kotahi has agreed to provide \$179,055 of funding to commence the project. The majority of this funding is to secure resources to conduct the community engagement and manage the project. Once such resources are engaged the project can begin with initial community engagement on concepts.

It should be noted that the scope of this project does not include the pedestrianisation of the end Kitchener Street, which was an idea suggested by the Martinborough Business Association to the Martinborough Community Board. However, as outlined above the project will explore the repurposing of some car parks with the community.

Councillor involvement in the project governance is requested and Officers request a Martinborough Ward Councillor is nominated to the project Governance Team, who can report back to the Assets and Services Committee.

3.1 Legal Implications

Any legal implications will be explored through the project, which may include the Reserve Management Plan for the Square and any traffic control impacts.

3.2 Financial Considerations

As part of the project requirements SWDC are required to fund 10% of the project costs. This amounts to \$19,985 and will be funded from the Infrastructure Reserve, which is within the CEO's delegation.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Overview of Innovating Streets for People Programme

Appendix 2 - Innovating Streets application - SWDC

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Appendix 1 – Innovating Streets for People Programme

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(Excerpts from NZTA website)

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets for People programme aims to make it faster and easier to transition our streets to safer and more liveable spaces.

The programme helps the sector plan, design and develop towns and cities by providing a toolkit of support options specifically targeted at retrofitting streets to reduce vehicle speeds and create more space for people. A fund of at least \$7 million is available for council projects.

The technique of employing fast tactical changes in our streets is well evidenced and has the potential to deliver significant safety benefits in a short timeframe.

The support package offered by Waka Kotahi will make it easier for councils to deliver:

- temporary, or semi-permanent, physical changes to streets
- improvements that test a permanent fix and prototype a street design
- activations that help communities re-imagine their streets.

Such testing enables communities to get a sense of what their streets could be like, and to understand that their input to changes is valued. In this way, all stakeholders can be involved in an iterative process and are able to make more informed decisions.

By testing innovations in streets with communities before committing to major investment, road controlling authorities can have more assurance that they're getting the direction of change right.

Projects using tactical urbanism techniques such as pilots, pop-ups and interim treatments that make it safer and/or easier for people to move around or access community spaces.

Projects could be anything from piloting a new walking or cycling facility to pop-up community-led street events, to trialling a low-traffic neighbourhood or reallocating more street space for people.

For example:

- Interim intersection safety improvements (e.g. kerb build-outs)
- Projects to improve placemaking
- Projects that reinforce the context of the street (business/economic activity areas, school traffic calming)

- One-off events to help cities embrace other modes of transport
- Regular play-street programmes that build community support for re-purposing streets
- Low-traffic neighbourhoods that aim to reduce vehicle volumes (e.g. filtered permeability)
- Piloting a cycleway-, pedestrian- or public transport-network.

Appendix 2 – Innovating Streets application - SWDC