

Report 14.512
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Committee Regional Transport Committee
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Regional School Travel Plan Report

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with information about the School Travel Plan results for the Wellington region, a summary of the decile breakdown of schools and the council resourcing for the programme.

2. Background

The School Travel Plan (STP) Programme is a joint-partnership between schools, local councils and Greater Wellington Regional Council. It supports school communities in developing and implementing action plans that improve road safety and promote active and sustainable travel to and from school. The programme has received funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) since 2006.

The Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010-2040 sets the following target for the school travel programme:

“94, or 41%, of primary and secondary/intermediate schools and 26,761, or 34% of school children exposed to school travel plan activities by June 2013.”

It is now October 2014 and the total number of schools in the programme is 76. Each Territorial Authority (TA) with a School Travel Plan coordinator has established a Partnership Agreement (Statement of Understanding) with the Regional Council to increase the number of schools in the programme in their respective areas each year. This is renewed every three years.

3. Key messages from the report

This report presents information about the school travel patterns of children in the Wellington region who attend schools with school travel plans. It looks at how children travel to school, how far children have to travel to school and perceptions of route safety.

At the start of 2014, 38% of all the region’s primary and intermediate schools had joined the programme – 72 schools in total. Over 70% percent of children

at schools in the programme travelled to school by active means at least once in the week surveyed.

Comparing the 2006-2009 period to the 2010-2013 period, the percentage of trips to schools in the programme made by active modes, increased from 32% to 40%. The majority of this increase has come from the growing number of children travelling by bicycle and scooter.

Movin' March 2014 was the Wellington region's fifth annual active travel week for schools. In 2014, 42 schools with over 9875 children registered to participate.

Across the region, serious injuries to child pedestrians have decreased by 41%, and minor injuries have decreased by 17%. Child cyclist injuries have also decreased; serious injuries have fallen 57% and minor injuries have decreased 29%. Although the STP programme cannot take credit for all these reductions, the activities of the programme contribute to them, and these reductions are an encouraging sign that there are improvements being made for children in this region.

Local councils have made significant steps to provide safe speeds and improve crossing facilities around schools. These roading improvements result in both improved safety and increased participation in active travel when combined with promotional activities.

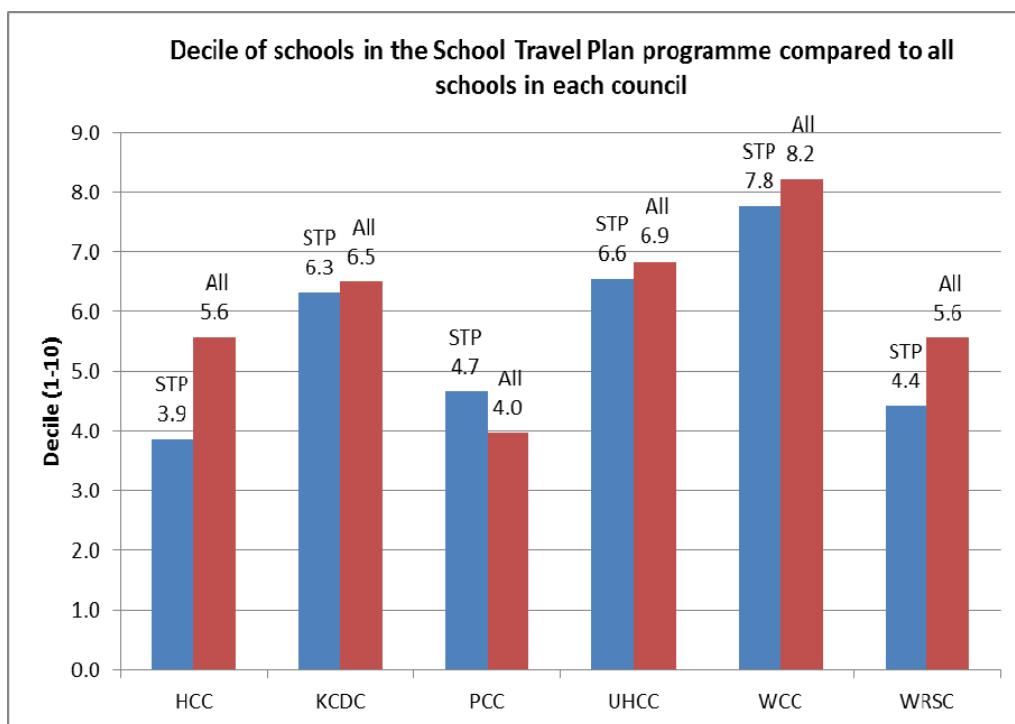
Of the parents surveyed for the programme, 71% of parents felt that children were safe walking to their children's school, and 42% thought children were safe biking to their school.

The full report is set out in **Attachment 1** to this report.

4. School decile breakdown of schools in STP programme.

At the previous Committee meeting, 26 August, questions were asked about what the school decile breakdown is in schools taking part in the STP programme. The graph below shows the average decile of schools in the programme compared to the average decile of all schools in each city/district council. The average deciles of schools in the programme are typically representative of the average deciles of schools in each city/district council.

The Wairarapa Road Safety Council (WRSC) contracts to the three councils; Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council, to deliver approved road safety programmes across the cluster.

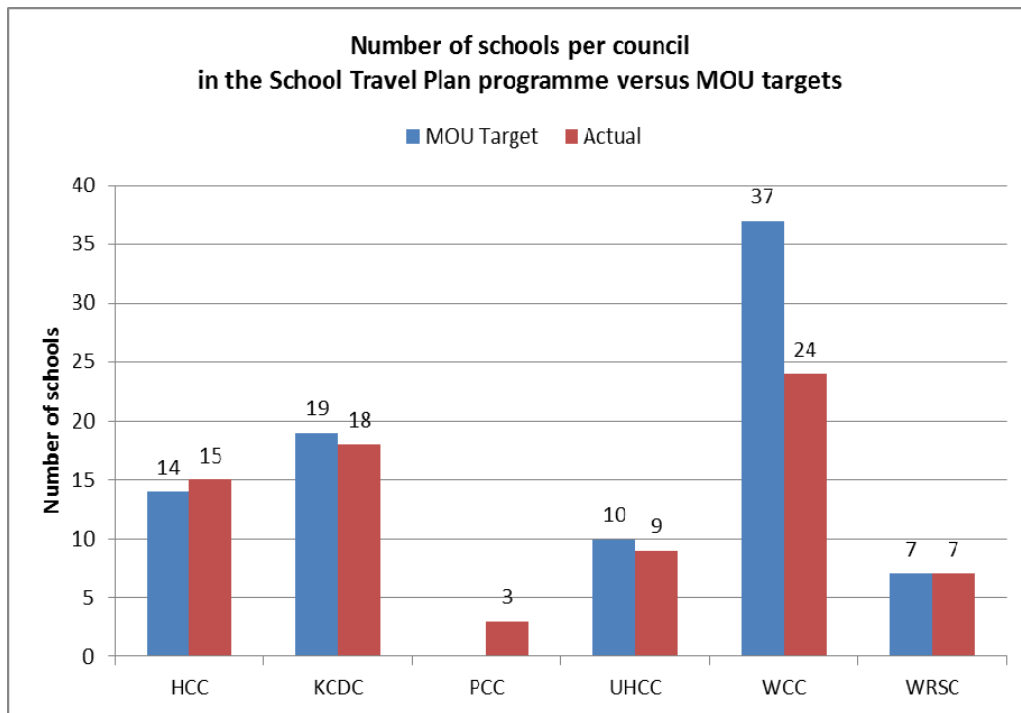


5. Allocation of council staff time to school travel plan work

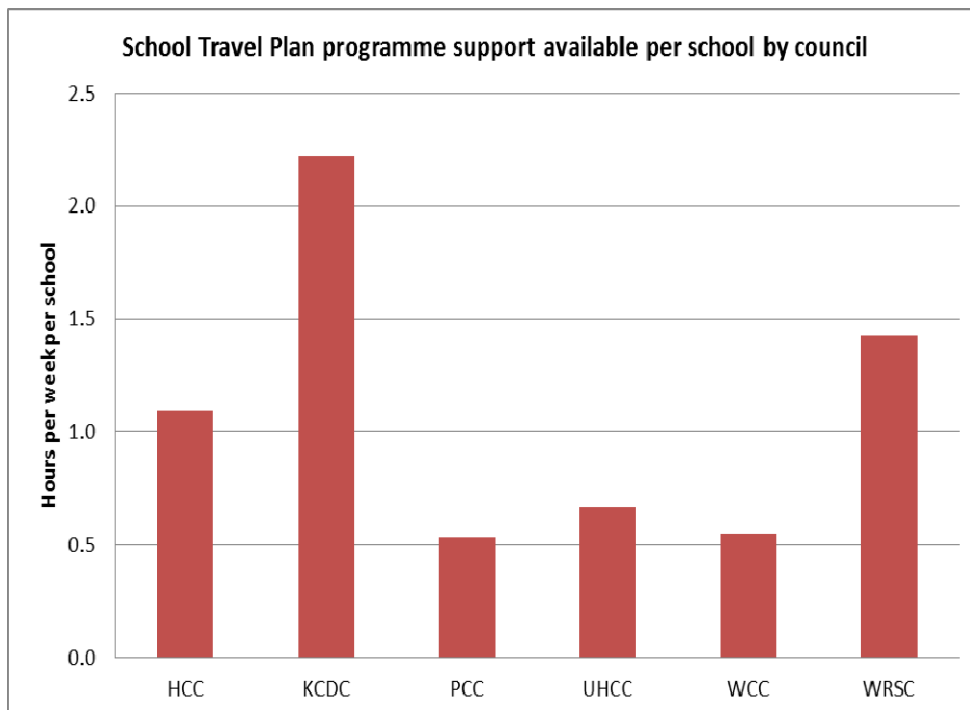
At the previous Committee meeting, 26 August, a question was asked about whether councils could be more ambitious with the number of schools in the programme.

In 2010 there were 42 schools in the STP programme. The current number in the programme is 76 (the report cites 72 as this was the number in December 2013) but there has not been a corresponding increase in staff resource time. It may not be possible to achieve on-going positive results in schools if an increase in the number of new schools coming into the programme each year does not come with an increase in staff resource to work with those new schools.

The graph below shows the number of schools currently in the programme per city/district area, and the number of schools agreed to as the target number. Porirua City Council is currently considering signing an MOU with Greater Wellington.



The graph below provides a breakdown of staff time (hours) per school currently in the programme for each city/district area. In the last month Porirua City Council has appointed a contractor to develop the school travel and road safety plans for the council. The indicated level on the graph is representative of this new appointment.



Overall the resource levels for STP schools in the programme are lower than those in other school support programmes of a similar nature such as Health Promoting Schools and Active Schools. However the resource levels are approximately similar to those for EnviroSchools.

6. Communication

Attachment 1 to this report will be sent to all School Travel Plan coordinators and placed on the Regional Council website.

7. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report as it is providing the Committee with information.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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ATTACHMENT 1: Wellington Region School Travel Plan Programme 2014