



Safer Journeys Third Action Plan

What is the Safer Journeys Strategy?

In 2010 the Government launched Safer Journeys, New Zealand's road safety strategy to 2020. Safer Journeys established a vision for New Zealand of "a safe road system free of death and serious injury" and adopted the Safe System approach.

How does the third Action Plan differ from previous Action Plans

The third Action Plan builds on core road safety work already underway that will continue and evolve over the next five years. The actions are less specific than previous action plans, but more ambitious as they look to embed the Safe System.

What is the third Action Plan seeking to achieve?

The third Action Plan focuses on four key actions that address areas of concern, and are likely to achieve the greatest reductions in deaths and serious injuries over time.

These actions and the high level focus of the Action Plan address areas of greatest risk and disproportionate harm, and present opportunities for the use of current and emerging technologies.

The third Action Plan's high level focus is to:

- Enable smart and safe choices on the road, creating an environment where people have the right information at the right time.
- Make motorcycling safer by providing a safe environment for motorcycle riders using education, information, and emerging technology.

- Ensure roads and roadsides support safer travel by focusing effort on identified highest risk roads, and continuing the significant work to date that has seen positive progress.
- Encourage safe vehicles by investigating how to increase the uptake of proven and emerging technologies in vehicles entering the New Zealand fleet.

Why did the road toll go up in 2014 and 2015?

Overall, the long-term trend is declining. However, the last couple of years have seen an increase. This is disappointing, but the causes are complex. The Ministry of Transport has undertaken research to gain a better understanding of why people die in road crashes – that is, why some crashes result in fatalities, rather than a less serious outcome.

[Download the 'Why do people die in road crashes?' report](#)

Road safety partners will continue their efforts to reduce the road toll through the Safer Journeys strategy and this Action Plan. All road users need to play their part in keeping the roads safe, and there are simple actions (such as wearing seatbelts/helmets, driving sober, travelling at an appropriate speed within the speed limit, etc) we can take to protect ourselves, our passengers and other road users.

Who has developed this action plan?

Action plans are developed by the National Road Safety Committee, and they drive action by member agencies.

The National Road Safety Committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Transport Agency, Accident Compensation Corporation, Police and Local Government New Zealand. The associate members include the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, WorkSafe New Zealand, and the Ministries of Justice, Health, Education.

Who is responsible for implementing various actions?

The action plan allocates the government's road safety initiatives into separate projects and responsibilities, which are assigned to road safety partners including the Ministry of Transport, NZ Transport Agency, the Police and ACC with assistance from other departments and interested stakeholders.

Who was consulted on the third Action Plan?

In 2015, the Ministry of Transport undertook an interim evaluation of the Safer Journeys strategy. As part of the interim evaluation, stakeholders were invited to attend workshops to discuss and identify ongoing areas of concern and future focus. The findings from this evaluation and consideration of work already underway inform the third Action Plan.

How will the actions be implemented?

The actions will be implemented in partnership with road safety partners and stakeholders. A number of the actions require further investigation and consultation before we can determine if a change to government policy is required.

How does the third Action Plan affect the National Land Transport Programme?

The identified actions support the strategic objectives of road safety partners and existing funding streams. The National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) supports a range of activities that improve road safety. This includes funding for road Policing activities, major roading improvements, advertising etc.

What are some examples of technology that will play a role in this Action Plan?

The purpose of Action 1: *Enable smart and safe choices* is to create an environment where technology enables smart and safe choices, resulting in fewer deaths and serious injuries for all road users.

Technology solutions include the latest GPS-enabled information and communications systems through smartphones. Technology solutions have wider application across the entire road safety system (roads and roadsides, vehicles, road use, and speed).

Examples include:

- electronic feedback signs, and electronic enforcement at the roadside
- in-vehicle messaging systems (eg, about changed speed limits or appropriate speed for road conditions, incidents, or increased road risk on the road ahead)
- sensors to detect fatigue and impaired driving.

Is there a risk that smartphone technologies will create more distraction for the driver?

The law states that while you are driving, you cannot create, send, or read a text message on a cellphone or use a hand-held cellphone to make or receive a phone call. This includes accessing online services in any way.

You can, however, use your cellphone to make, receive or terminate a telephone call while driving if the phone is secured in a mounting fixed to the vehicle and you manipulate the phone infrequently and briefly.

Smartphones have the ability to interact with the driver without the driver having to physically operate the device. For example, audible feedback to prompt safer speed or correct lane use.

When we explore the use of smartphone enabled technology the primary consideration is ensuring there is no user distraction and it contributes to a safer user experience.

How do the actions in the third Action Plan compare to what is being done in other countries?

The development of the third Action Plan considered the approaches taken by other countries implementing a Safe System. The actions in the third Action Plan are relevant to the New Zealand roading environment and reflect the areas of greatest concern and opportunity for New Zealand.

This is the final action plan. Will there be a new road safety strategy?

As further work is undertaken on the actions in the third Action Plan, we will consider what approach is appropriate beyond 2020.

Where can I find more information on road safety issues?

The Ministry of Transport produces fact sheets on road safety issues such as alcohol, speed and fatigue. These are available on www.transport.govt.nz/research/CrashFacts/

[There is also a range of road safety resources available on the resources page of this site.](#)