



**To: Council Reporter/Chief Reporter**

**From: Deb Parker – CCC Communication Team**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Strategy to combat increasing traffic congestion

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Christchurch's traffic is forecast to have increased by 27% by 2026.

The draft Greater Christchurch Travel Demand Management Strategy (TDMS), now open for public discussion, is about encouraging people to travel differently, by walking, cycling, using public transport and car pooling, in a bid to combat increasing traffic woes.

The strategy aims to manage traffic growth by getting people to make better use of the existing transport network. It has been developed jointly by the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) partners (the Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri and Selwyn district councils, Environment Canterbury and the New Zealand Transport Agency).

As the largest population centre in the UDS area, Christchurch and the people living, working and travelling in the city, stands to benefit greatly from TDM. Commuters into and out of the city would also benefit, particularly from reduced congestion.

Mayor Bob Parker says TDM is not about stopping people using their cars. "It is about changing our behaviour. One fewer trip by car each week, per household would stop traffic growth."

"While walking, cycling and using public transport are excellent ways to address congestion and a whole range of transport issues we are facing, car pooling, combining trips and reducing trip distances would also mean our roads could carry more people more efficiently.

"Changing the way we travel will take time, and the actions in the draft strategy will coincide with infrastructure improvements, including public transport, cycling and walking facilities," he said.

Public consultation on the TDMS begins today and closes on 13 March.

- Copies of the document and summary document, fact sheet and submission form are available at Christchurch City Council service centres, offices of the Waimakariri and Selwyn district councils and Environment Canterbury, and the Christchurch office of NZTA.
- Feedback can also be sent through the Have-Your-Say website at [www.ccc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay/](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay/) where there are links to the various documents.

For more information contact:

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Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker **027 443 4575**

UDS Transport Group Chairman Rob Woods **027 6789 739**

## A quick snapshot of travel trends today

**People in Greater Christchurch love their cars.** With the highest rate of car ownership in New Zealand (709 cars for every 1,000 residents compared to the national average of 700 per 1,000), residents make 85% of all trips in private cars.

**Travel in solitary confinement.** 60% of residents drive to work (compared to 40% in Wellington) and in 19 out of 20 cars travelling to work there is a single occupant.

**Car travel is growing at 2.5% per annum.** As the number of households increases so too does the number of cars per household, with many having three or more cars (often one for each inhabitant).

**More trucks, more often.** Road-based freight is growing at 3.5% per annum and freight movements are expected to double by 2040.

**Out of the cradle and into the car.** 34% of morning peak travel is education related, with over half the children at primary school being driven there by car, with similar numbers being driven or driving to secondary school.

**Cars still win over buses.** 4% of residents travel to work by bus (compared to 14% Wellington and 7% Auckland). Of those people who live outside of Christchurch City and travel to work in Christchurch less than 1% travel by bus.

*Figures are taken from a variety of sources including Christchurch City Council research, Statistics New Zealand, the Ministry of Transport and Ministry for the Environment.*