

16 February 2012



the architectural centre inc.
PO Box 24178 Wellington

Re: Draft Accessible Wellington Action Plan

This submission is from the Wellington Architectural Centre, a group which represents both professional and non-professionals interested in architecture and design, and in the promotion of good design in Wellington. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this proposal.

(1) The Architectural Centre strongly supports this initiative and commends the Council for developing this.

(2) The Centre considers that the goals proposed to measure progress are too vague (e.g. An accessible Wellington will: feel vibrant, diverse and inclusive). We strongly recommend that all the statements in the section headed "How will we know Wellington is an accessible city?" be rewritten to contain measurable goals with times for achievement.

An example would be:

"By 2015 80% of Wellingtonians will strongly agree with the statement:
"Wellington is a vibrant, diverse and inclusive city.""

"By 2017 95% of Wellingtonians will strongly agree with the statement:
"Wellington is a vibrant, diverse and inclusive city.""

We suggest this to enable quantitative feedback on whether the Council's actions to improve accessibility are actually working and improving. An annual or biannual survey of residents would be needed to ascertain if progress is being made.

(3) We strongly endorse the aim to develop a bus stop design standard to improve accessibility, and consider that the prevention of disability (e.g. illness) is also important. We consequently strongly encourage the council to ensure that the redesign of bus stops also provide proper shelter from wind and rain.

(4) We also note the need for the proposed Transfer Stations to be exemplary examples of accessible design. In addition, the ease of taking wheelchairs, buggies, and bicycles on and off buses and trains needs to be addressed. There ought to be no restrictions between those on wheels and those with feet.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on this draft plan. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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