



02 April 2024

**Submission by Grey Power Federation New Zealand Inc.  
on the  
“Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024-2034”**

**This submission is made on behalf of the New Zealand Grey Power Federation Inc.**

**Grey Power NZ Federation Inc (GPF) is a non-sectarian and non-party political, advocacy organisation that aims to advance, promote and protect the welfare and well-being of older people.**

Whilst GPNZ understands the current government’s desire to control expenditure on land transport issues it finds that the safety and care of pedestrian’s needs are somewhat lacking in the proposed cutbacks/restrictions.

Grey Power wants to comment specifically on investment in safe pathways and footpaths.

We find there has been no apparent allowance for any ageing population growth and increasing older people’s use of safe pathways and footpaths. (Tables 3 & 4)

In fact, spending figures remain static or reduced over this period, despite the rapidly increasing ageing population.

New Zealand is experiencing an upsurge in those of the older age group which in turn leads to greater use and need of safe footpaths and walkways.

Any state highway/road that passes through towns or villages should have a priority for the construction of footpaths for the safety of all walkers.

The repair and maintenance of existing walkways also needs to be a looked at to prevent accidents and falls which in turn create cause costs to the public budget, maybe not the Transport budget but ACC, hospital costs etc.

Granted footpaths may not create income but properly designed and maintained ones are far safer, prevent claims on other government services, and cause less traffic congestion issues.

We would ask that these issues are revisited, and appropriate funding be allotted to them rather than reducing for the sake of a reduction exercise.

This submission is being made primarily for our members who are of the 50 plus age group but also encompasses those of limited mobility, young children and virtually every New Zealander that walks!

Kevin Gardener

National Advisory Group Transport Chair, GPF