



P.O. Box 1271  
145 Cuba Street  
Palmerston North 4410  
P 06 355 0126  
E [admin@enm.org.nz](mailto:admin@enm.org.nz)  
[www.enm.org.nz](http://www.enm.org.nz)

## Submission- Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-32

**To:** Horizons Regional Council

### Contact Details:

**Organisation:** Environment Network Manawatu (ENM)  
**Contact Person:** Madz BatachEl  
**Address for service:** 145 Cuba St, Palmerston North 4410  
**Phone:** (06) 355 0126  
**Email:** [coordinator@enm.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@enm.org.nz)

### Overview:

A submission on behalf of Environment Network Manawatu regarding all aspects of the given draft plan.

### Background:

Environment Network Manawatu (ENM) is the environment hub for the Manawatū Region with the key purpose of facilitating and enabling communication, cooperation, and increasing collective action amongst its member groups and the wider community. ENM provides leadership by underpinning, fostering, and encouraging environmental initiatives in the region and our 60 current member groups are from throughout the Manawatū River Catchment with interests including biodiversity regeneration, freshwater management, citizen science, food security and resilience, sustainable living, alternative energies, and active transport. The network is organised into two collective focus areas: Manawatū Food Action Network and Manawatū River Source to Sea.

### ENM's constitutional purposes are to:

- coordinate and communicate the efforts of the member groups to enhance the local environment:

- actively protect, maintain, restore and enhance the environment of the Manawatū
- promote ideas to the wider community to encourage them to participate in environmental projects
- develop concerted long-term plans of action to enhance the environment and actively progress the implementation of these plans
- encourage the provision of “green” areas for passive recreation
- work together to identify, initiate, support, implement and maintain environmental projects that benefit the wider community
- initiate, develop, implement and participate in environmental education
- act as a central point of access to environmental information.
- advocate for ecological sustainability and matters of agreed environmental significance.
- work in partnership with iwi to recognise kaitiakitanga and environmental aims and objectives in common.
- liaise with similar organisations elsewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world as appropriate to source and share ideas for environmental projects and issues.

### **Submission:**

#### **What have we got right in the draft Regional Public Transport Plan?**

ENM supports the vision of ‘An attractive, integrated and convenient public transport system that connects us, enhances our wellbeing and environment, and becomes the preferred mode of transport in and between urban areas’. We particularly support the public transport becoming the preferred mode of transport between urban areas in a bid to reduce pollution and mitigate climate related effects.

We support the six objectives linked to this vision in particular the effort to reduce emissions through increasing the use of public transport.

#### **What would you like to see changed in the draft Regional Public Transport Plan.**

Though we support the reduction of emissions we have questions around how the transport fleet is decarbonised. It is noted that the aim is ‘at least 70 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per kilometre travelled for public transport bus services by 2032’. We are interested in more details around the expense of this particularly as the aim is only a 200% increase in public transport patronage. Would this input be more effective in subsidising costs, and focusing on education and awareness raising around the benefits of shared transport?

We also believe that increases in patronage (200% per cent increase in public transport patronage by 2032) are potentially too modest and that there should be a higher aim from the amount invested.

We would like to see free fares for both students and Community Services Card holders to increase rates of use and to increase normalised reliance and habits of use for public transport.

**What do you think about where we are proposing to focus efforts over the lifetime of the plan?**

We largely support the focus of the efforts though we question what education and information will be available to raise awareness of the environmental benefits of community transport in addition to cost and convenience.