

Transport Choices

Delivering communities with transport options, quicker and cheaper

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Context

Programme was '**Crown funded**'

- Outside the usual National Land Transport Fund mechanism and separate objectives of the 21/22 Government Policy Statement
- Part of Emissions Reduction Plan and Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Programme operated from 2022 – 2025

NZTA managed programme/funding - Councils delivered



Objectives & investment areas

Objectives

Enable high-impact projects

Deliver a range of mode shift projects in a time efficient way

Build capability in a collaborative way to better deliver efficient urban transport solutions

Investment Areas

Delivering strategic cycling networks



Supporting safe and efficient school travel



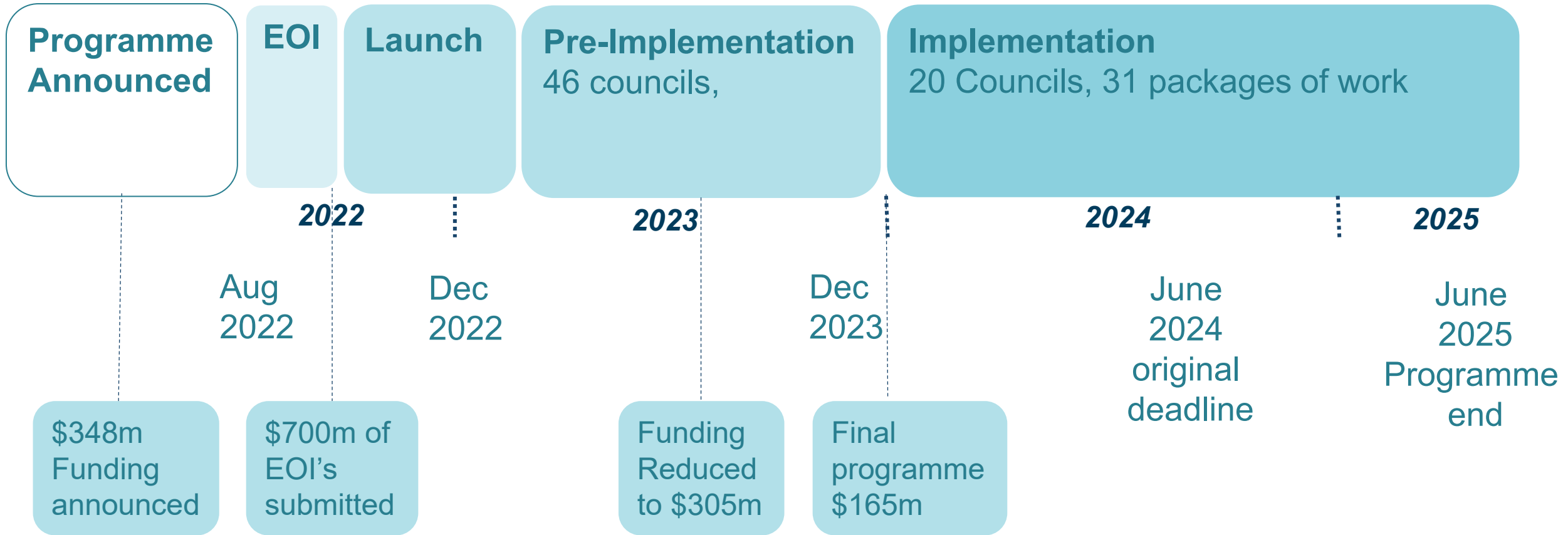
Creating walkable neighbourhoods



Making public transport more reliable and attractive



Programme phases



Evaluating the programme

As a Crown Fund, evaluation of the programme was essential. Important that learnings captured to inform any potential future programmes.

Evaluation process had 6 criteria and questions.

Contribution to Transport Choice:

- How did projects contribute to safer, easier, and more attractive active/shared modes?

Delivery of Outputs:

- Were key outputs delivered as specified?

Building Momentum:

- Did the programme build momentum for rapid delivery?

Building Public Support:

- Did projects build public support?

Strategic Alignment:

- How well did projects align with strategic plans?

Cost Effectiveness:

- How cost-effective and efficient was delivery?



Delivery of outputs

All outputs were achieved with some targets significantly exceeded:

Investment Area	Measure	Agreed Target	Total Delivered
Cycling and micro-mobility	Kms of cycleways	50	66
Public transport	Number of new and upgraded bus stops	500	518
	Kms of bus priority lane	5	8.2
Safe, green and healthy school travel	Number of schools benefiting from safety improvements	50	77
Walkable neighbourhoods	Number of suburbs that received walking and safety improvements	30	62

Cost effectiveness

Through the NLTP, in the two previous financial years - **52km** of cycleways were delivered, costing **\$250m**.

Transport Choices delivered **66km** of cycleways for less than **\$80m**.

No formal business case requirement = **saving considerable time and money**

BUT:

Impact on NLTP delivery



Contribution to Transport Choice

Active and public transport modes were made **more attractive and accessible** after projects were constructed.

Respondents felt an **increased perception of safety**.

“We sold our car, the bus is a lot cheaper, journey less stressed and can listen to my music in peace without worrying about traffic”

Whanganui resident



Strategic alignment

All projects had strategic alignment. Some also allowed for wider integration with other programmes of work:

- For Whanganui it allowed **leveraging service upgrades** planned by Horizons RC with infrastructure improvements.
- For Auckland feeder routes were improved to **complement the Northwestern Busway project.**
- For Hamilton it allowed for the **first step** in delivering their Cycling Masterplan.



Building momentum (benefits)

Building momentum within communities is reflected in usage.

Active Transport:

QLDC's Arthurs Point cycleway project recorded a usage increase of **188%** (12,880 trips) for cycling and **290%** (7721 trips) for pedestrian usage.

Public Transport:

Whanganui saw a **58%** patronage increase network wide with a **99%** (4287 trips) increase at upgraded stops.



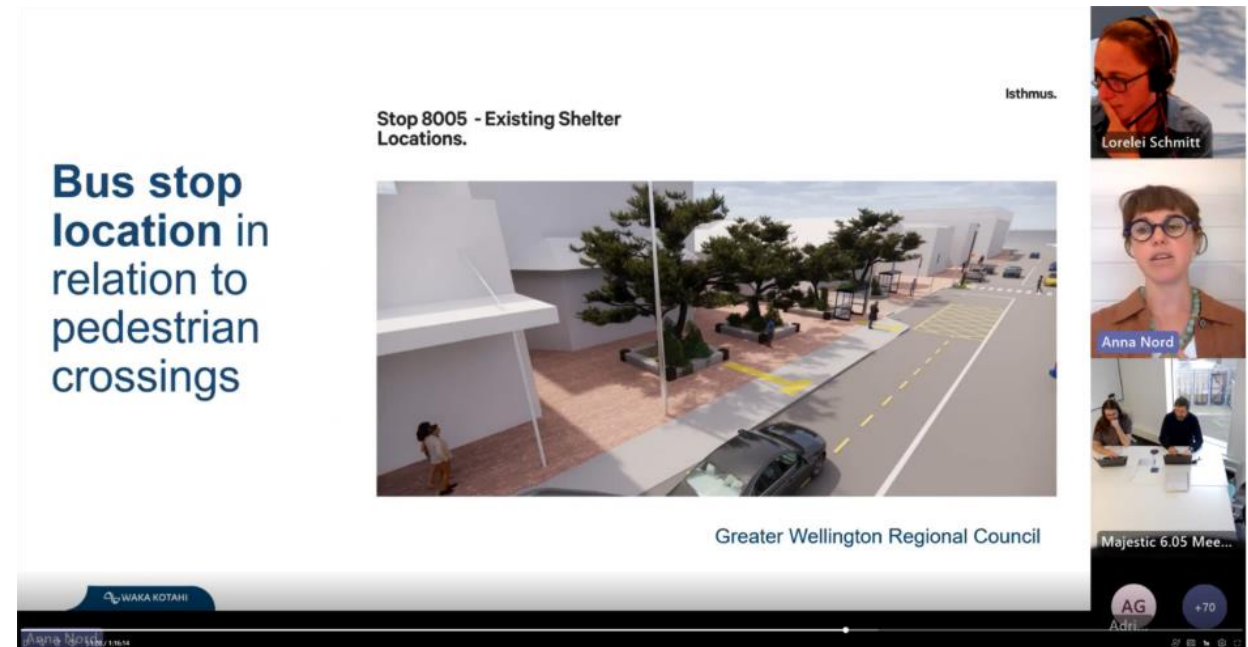
Building momentum (process and people)

Councils adjusted internal processes to meet timeframes:

- Hamilton CC bundled projects together and **pro-actively worked with local contractors** through procurement
- New Plymouth DC had Councilors on their Programme Steering Group to help **speed up decision making**

Some Councils delivered best practice cycling infrastructure for the first time – **building capability and experience.**

Learning sessions were delivered throughout the programme



Building public support

Two common themes impacted the level of community support:

- **Project complexity**
- **Amount of previous engagement**

In some cases, engagement revealed less support than anticipated, which lead to the scaling-back of the project.



Key learnings

- Programme **delivered outputs, on time and within budget**
- Councils **adapted** internal processes and embraced **innovative approaches** to meet deadlines
- Quicker delivery resulted in **cost efficiencies** and **earlier benefits**
 - But – truncated public engagement meant higher levels of dissatisfaction .
- Projects that were **strategically aligned** with existing plans and investments maximized their impact
- Programme **improved capability** in process improvement, technical design and M&E

Transport Choices:

‘Delivering more transport options, quicker and cheaper’

