

**TRANS  
ACTION**  
**TRANSPORT CHOICE  
FOR WELLINGTON**

The Executive Director  
National Infrastructure Unit  
The Treasury  
PO Box 3724  
Wellington

4 October 2009

**Submission on: *Towards the First National  
Infrastructure Plan***

**Trans-Action:** 'Transport choice for Wellington' – is an email-based, group of 150 dedicated to researching and advocating sustainable transport. We promote the adoption of electric public transport, rail transport, transport energy efficiency, more liveable cities, smart growth and the containment of urban sprawl. Until recently we were known as Transport 2000+.

**Light Rail**

The draft consultation document asks if there are important infrastructure issues not mentioned in the document. In our view there is a serious omission as there is no reference to the role of light rail.

New Zealand has a serious public transport infrastructure backlog that is now beginning to be addressed in Auckland and Wellington. Infrastructure choices about technologies and systems are critical because they shape the future of our economy and society. A National Infrastructure Plan must make reference to the role of light rail (the modern tram) as this technology is being adapted by hundreds of cities internationally. A credible National Infrastructure Plan must acknowledge the potential of light rail as a genuine option for inner city corridors which have the travel intensity to support this transport mode.

Light Rail is a practical, affordable and high quality type of public transport that makes eminent sense where travel density justifies this technology. Wellington, in particular, is well suited to the use of light rail in the tram-train configuration. With tram-trains the suburban rail network can be extended directly through the CBD, eliminating many of the interchange problems associated with the current rail and bus services.

**Further input**

We would be pleased to provide additional information about light rail transit.

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