



Policy # 5004 – Footpaths

Adopted by Council: September 2012
Reviewed: September 2016

BACKGROUND

The community, especially children and the aged, need safe routes to use as they move to and from places in their community. For this reason, it is the responsibility of Community Boards to:

- Monitor existing footpaths to ensure they are to a standard that meets the needs of public safety.
- Monitor the need for new footpaths and the maintenance of existing.

OBJECTIVE

That the footpath network be well planned, integrated, and maintained to meet the needs of the community.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Council will set a standard for footpath construction in the Far North District Council Engineering Standards and Guidelines 2004 (to be read in conjunction with NZS4404:2004 Land Development and Subdivision Engineering).
2. Council will maintain and renew existing footpaths to maintain an agreed level of service (no worse than RAMM Grade 3 standard).
3. When replacing a footpath, Council will consider whether additional width is required to accommodate mobility scooter users.
4. Council will ensure that footpaths be designed for universal access and remain free of barriers such as overhanging signs, stormwater gratings, and structures such as rubbish bins or street light poles.
5. Council will consider recommendations from the Disability Action Group (DAG) to improve universal access to the existing footpath network.
6. Council will ensure a Barrier Free review is undertaken of all new footpath designs before construction.
7. Council will encourage positive attitudes to walking as part of an integrated transport network.
8. Council will encourage land use, planning and design that supports walking by ensuring all urban subdivisions or land use developments provide a suitable network of footpaths and pedestrian accessways to Council standard;



9. Council will identify new footpaths needed as a result of development growth (such as links from the existing network to a new supermarket or school) and include these in the Footpath Priority matrix. Community infrastructure funding may be used to fund these projects.
10. Council will apply the following criteria to prioritise network development:
 - a. Proximity to pedestrian generators i.e. hospitals, rest homes, and other highly used areas
 - b. Within a 2km distance of a primary school or 3.8kms from a high school
 - c. Traffic density based on the functional classification of the street or road i.e. arterial, collector, local, through road, no exit, or cul de sac
 - d. Completes a link in the existing network
 - e. Speed limit
 - f. Suitability of the berm for pedestrians without a formal footpath
 - g. Existing footpath on one side of the road
 - h. Contribution from the community
 - i. Additional width required – high mobility scooter area

PROCEDURES

1. Board receives or identifies a need for a new footpath
2. Board passes a resolution that the footpath request be investigated. The resolution needs to include sufficient details regarding cost, such as type of material, location, length, and if there is any community contribution.
3. IAM team investigates the cost to build the path and considers the alignment of the project with other work planned (i.e. stormwater improvements or road widening).
4. The project and price are added into the Footpath Priority matrix (Objective No. A1349250) by the Asset Management Officer – Roads and Stormwater.
5. A report is prepared for the Board with the cost, any IAM or NZTA funding that might align with the project, any specific timing that may align with other works, and where the project fits in the Footpath Priority matrix against other requests.
6. Community Board considers the project against others in the Footpath Priority matrix and recommends that:
 - a. community grant funds be allocated to the project
 - b. the project replace a currently funded project
 - c. the project be forwarded to the next LTP round for consideration