

# Hon Michael Wood

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Minister of Transport  
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety



Gabriel Gati

21 APR 2022

Dear Gabriel

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2022 to the Prime Minister about the need for safe cycling infrastructure in Auckland. Your email has been forwarded to me for response as Minister of Transport.

I was very sad to read of Levi James's death and my thoughts are with his family, friends and the community. Everyone should be able to safely cycle around our towns and cities and it is clear we need to do more to make it safer for people on bikes.

I agree we need to accelerate construction of safe cycling networks in Auckland, and across New Zealand. As you note, encouraging more people to cycle will reduce emissions, reduce our dependence on cars and help us reach our climate goals.

While local authorities are responsible for designing and building local roads and cycling infrastructure in their towns and cities, central government plays a key role through our funding settings, regulations, and design recommendations and guidance.

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) is how the Government guides Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to invest more than \$4.5 billion a year through the National Land Transport Fund. The GPS outlines how we expect funding to be allocated across different activity classes. GPS 2021 sent a clear signal to the transport sector and local government that the Government is dedicated to providing greater transport choice by increasing investment in cycling and walking infrastructure.

In May this year, the Government will release its emissions reduction plan (ERP) that will include several initiatives to improve the safety of cycling. As part of the ERP, we propose to substantially increase funding for active travel, deliver a strategy to increase cycling, and support local government to boost capability in delivering cycling improvements at speed.

We are also considering regulatory changes to make it easier for councils to make street changes that support active travel, such as reallocating road space to quickly roll out more dedicated cycling infrastructure.

I trust these examples demonstrate the Government's commitment to increasing the safety of cycling and providing a safe, accessible, and environmentally friendly transport system that benefits all New Zealanders.

Thank you again for writing to me about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Wood', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Hon Michael Wood  
**Minister of Transport**

Gabriel - I have also contacted  
AT to discuss. Michael