



GLOBAL
ROAD SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP

16 September 2024

Open Letter to Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Minister of Transport Simeon Brown

Re: Draft Speed Rule and Its Impact on Road Safety

Dear Prime Minister Luxon and Minister Brown,

We, the undersigned, write to you with deep concern regarding the proposed Speed Rule currently under consideration. This rule has sparked significant public discourse and received extensive feedback, underscoring the importance of basing speed limits on solid evidence and aligning them with 'safe system' principles.

We urge you to carefully reflect on the following key points:

- **New Zealand's international commitments:** As a signatory to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety, New Zealand is pledged to halve global road crash deaths and injuries by 2030. The proposed rule would undermine this commitment.
- **Contradictions with global agreements:** New Zealand is also bound by the Stockholm Declaration and various UN Resolutions and Political Declarations aimed at reducing road trauma. The draft Speed Rule is at odds with these commitments.
- **Global evidence on speed reduction:** An Expert Advisory Group commissioned by the Swedish government for the 2020 Stockholm Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety presented clear, data-driven evidence on the life-saving benefits of reducing speed limits. This evidence cannot be ignored.

**Global Road Safety
Partnership Secretariat**

c/o International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

P.O. Box 303
Chemin des Crêts, 17
Petit-Sacconex, 1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 730 4249
Fax: +41 22 733 0395
Email: grsp@ifrc.org
www.grsproadsafety.org

Hosted by:



www.ifrc.org Saving lives, changing minds.

- **Economic and environmental considerations:** A recent report from the World Bank (2024) details the economic advantages of effective speed management and refutes the misconception that higher speeds correlate with economic benefits. Additionally, increased vehicle speeds lead to higher fuel consumption and emissions of CO2 and NO2 (which kills over 2,000 people per year in NZ), counteracting our efforts to reduce transport-related emissions.
- **Proven success of local speed management:** In New Zealand, both Auckland Transport and Waka Kotahi NZTA have implemented speed limit reduction initiatives that have resulted in significant declines in road crash deaths and injuries. These life-saving measures demonstrate the critical impact of lower speeds.

The evidence is unequivocal: as mean vehicle speeds rise, so do the number of deaths and serious injuries. New Zealand has made considerable progress in recent years in adopting speed limits that align with safe system principles, saving countless lives in the process.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed blanket speed limit increases. Should this rule be adopted, the tragic consequence will be more New Zealanders losing their lives or suffering severe injury, along with a substantial burden on the nation's healthcare and rehabilitation services.

New Zealand must continue its commitment to evidence-based, life-saving road safety policies. To do otherwise would put lives at risk and violate the international promises we have made to protect our citizens on the roads.

Yours sincerely,



David Cliff ONZM MStJ
Chief Executive
Global Road Safety Partnership¹



Simon Kingham
Professor, School of Earth & Environment
University of Canterbury
Chief Science Advisor, Ministry of Transport 2018-24

This letter is endorsed by the following:

¹ The Red Cross Movement is made up of three main components: the 191 National Societies (including New Zealand Red Cross), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC, or the Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Federation hosts the Global Road Safety Partnership and does not represent New Zealand Red Cross.

Endorsements from New Zealand

- Honorary Professor **Shanthi Ameratunga**, The University of Auckland (School of Population Health, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences)
- Dr **Vanessa Beanland** – Director, Otago Transport Research Network and Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Otago
- **Tony Bowis**, Bowis Consulting Ltd, Dunedin
- Professor (Adjunct) **Ralph Chapman**, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
- Professor Emerita **Jennie Connor** ONZM, Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago *Otakou Whakaihū Waka*
- Dr **Angela Curl**, Department of Population Health, University of Otago
- Associate Professor **Gabrielle Davy**, Research Associate Professor, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago
- Dr **Bridget Doran**, PhD, Chartered Member Engineering New Zealand, Bridget Doran Consulting
- Councillor **Alexa Forbes**, Co-Chair Public and Active Transport Committee, Deputy Chair Regional Transport Committee, Otago Regional Council
- Councillor **Christine Garey**, Dunedin City Council
- Dr **Michael Hale**, Public Health Physician, Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland
- Professor **James Higham**, Hon Prof. University of Otago
- Dr **Jamie Hosking**, Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland
- **Ben Jassin**, Senior Transport Policy Planner, Christchurch City Council
- Associate Professor **Rhys Jones** (Ngāti Kahungunu), Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland
- Professor **Michael Keall**, Department of Public Health, University of Otago Medical School, Wellington
- Dr **Rebecca Kiddle** (Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi), Urban Researcher
- Dr **Glen Koorey**, Director and Principal Transportation Engineer, ViaStrada Ltd
- Dr **Marion Leighton** MBBS, MRCP, FRACP, PGDipClinEd Consultant Physician, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand
- Dr **Rebecca Lilley**, Injury Prevention Research Unit, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago
- Professor **John McCall**, Professor of Surgery, University of Auckland
- Professor **Robert McLachlan**, Distinguished Professor in Applied Mathematics, Massey University
- Dr **Rebecca McLean**, Associate Professor, Public Health, University of Otago
- Dr **Alice Miller** - MBBS FRNZCGP MPH, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington
- Professor **Imran Muhammad**, Professor of Transport and Urban Planning, Massey University
- **Diana Munster**, Principal DianaM Consulting
- Emeritus Professor **Alan Nicholson**, University of Canterbury
- Dr **Simon Opit**, Research Officer, SHORE & Whariki Research Centre, Massey University, College of Health

- Dr **Emma Osborne**, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington
- **Sam Pasley**, Managing Director (NZ), Safe System Solutions
- Dr **Kimiora Raerino** (Ngāti Awa, Te Arawa), SHORE & Whariki Research Centre
- Dr **Edward Randal**, Research Fellow, Department of Public Health, University of Otago
- Professor **Mofreh Saleh**, Ph.D. P.E. CMEngNZ F.ASCE. Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Canterbury, Registered Professional Civil Engineer, Associate Editor for the International Journal of Pavement Research and Technology
- Associate Professor **Caroline Shaw**, University of Otago Wellington
- **Fiona Solly** BA (Hons.) in History, Victoria University of Wellington
- Professor **Melody Smith**, Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland
- **Mark Stables**, Director, Delta-V Group Ltd, New Zealand
- **Al Stewart** LLB NZBM, Barrister & International Road Safety Consultant, National Road Trauma Awards Executive Committee Member (NZ)
- Dr **Fergus Tate**, New Zealand
- Dr **David Tripp**, MBChB (Dist), FRACP, FCICM, MCom (Hons), BSc (Hons), General Physician and Intensive Care Specialist, Doctors for Active Safe Transport, Wellington
- Dr **Christopher Wakeman**, Surgeon and Chair of Trauma for the New Zealand Branch of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, University of Otago, Christchurch
- Councillor **Elliot Weir**, Otago Regional Council
- Dr **Kirsty Wild**, Senior Research Fellow, Population Health, University of Auckland
- **Nicki Williams**, PhD Student, University of Otago, Population Health Department
- **Mark Williams**, CEO, Queenstown Trails Trust, Queenstown
- Professor **Karen Witten**, Professor of Public Health, Massey University
- Professor **Alistair Woodward**, University of Auckland

Endorsements from outside New Zealand

- Professor **Marco Amati**, RMIT University, Victoria, Australia
- **Liz Ampt**, Director, Concepts of Change, Australia
- Associate Professor **Abdul Bachani**, Director – International Injury Research Unit, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA
- Associate Professor **Lyndel Bates**, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith Criminology Institute, Griffith University, Australia
- **Kenn Beer**, Principal Engineer, Safe System Solutions, Australia
- Dr. **Christopher R. Bennett**, Lead Transport Specialist (Retired), The World Bank
- Professor **Phil Blythe** CBE FREng CEng FIET FCIHT, Professor of Intelligent Transport Systems, Director: Mobility and Transport NUCoRE (Newcastle University Centre of Research Excellence) & Former Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Transport (May 2015-June 2021), UK

- Dr **Tamara Bozovic**, Research Fellow in Transport Analysis, University of the West of England, UK
- Prof. Dr. **Marco te Brömmelstroet**, Professor in Urban Mobility Futures, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Professor **Oliver Carsten**, Professor of Transport Safety, Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, UK
- Dr **Suzy Charman**, Executive Director, Road Safety Foundation, UK
- Professor **Graham Currie**, FTSE, Professor of Transport Engineering, President Australasian Transport Research Forum, Monash University, Australia
- Dr **Adrian L Davis**, Professor of Transport & Health, Edinburgh Napier University, UK
- Associate Professor **Alexa Delbosc**, Director of Graduate Research, Civil Engineering, Monash Institute of Transport Studies, Australia
- Professor **Danny Dorling**, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, UK
- Dr **Judy Fleiter**, Road Safety Project Manager, Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research, Australia
- Professor **Narelle Haworth AM**, Research Professor, Organisation Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety-Queensland (CARRS-Q), Australia
- Dr **Kristi Heesch**, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Dr **Debbie Hopkins**, Associate Professor in Human Geography, University of Oxford, UK
- Dr **Ingrid Johnston**, Chief Executive Officer, Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS), Australia
- **Phil Jones**, Chairman, PJA Group, UK
- **Kirsty Kelly**, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management Ltd, Australia
- **Jennifer Kent**, Senior Research Fellow and Urbanism Discipline Research Lead, The University of Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning, Australia
- **Rod King MBE**, Founder and Chair, 20's Plenty for Us CIC, UK
- Dr **Britta Lang**, Senior Global Manager, Global Road Safety Partnership, Switzerland
- Associate Professor **Gregoire Larue**, Chair of the Queensland Chapter of the Australian College of Road Safety, Australia
- **Todd Litman**, Executive Director, Victoria Transport Policy Institute, Canada
- Professor **Robin Lovelace**, University of Leeds, Institute for Transport Studies, UK
- **Emma Maclennan**, President, Director General, EASST, UK
- **Rob McInerney**, CEO, International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), Australia
- Associate Professor **Steve O'Hern**, Organisation: Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, UK
- Emeritus Professor **John Parkin**, Emeritus Professor of Transport Engineering, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK
- **Donna Price**, Chair, International Road Victims Partnership, Ireland

- Associate Professor **Paul Roberts**, Deputy Director, Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research, Australia
- Dr **Tim Schwanen**, FAcSS, Professor of Transport Geography and Director of the Transport Studies University of Oxford, UK
- Professor **Teresa Senserrick** PhD AFHEA (Indigenous Knowledge) Director, School of Psychological Science, Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research, Australia
- Professor **Jon Shaw**, Professor of Transport Geography and Head of School, University of Plymouth, UK
- **Martin Small**, Principal, Martin Small Consulting, Australia
- Professor **Gordon Smith** MD (MB ChB Otago), MPH, Stuart M. and Joyce N. Robbins Distinguished Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Senior Research Advisor, Health Sciences Research and Graduate Education, West Virginia University, USA
- Dr **Sekhar Somenahalli** Ph.D, Senior Lecturer, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
- **Sara Stace**, President, Better Streets, Australia
- **Tim Sullivan**, Director, Shaping Cities and Communities, Australia
- Associate Professor **Tony Sze**, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
- Professor **Claes Tingvall**, Professor, DrMedSc, DSc h.c., Sweden
- **Paul Tranter**, Honorary Associate Professor, School of Science, UNSW Canberra, Australia
- Dr **Jessica Truong**, Director, JD Truong Limited, UK
- Dr **Blair Turner**, Director, Road Safety Advisory Services, Victoria, Australia
- Dr **Pieter Venter**, former Chief Executive, Global Road Safety Partnership, South Africa
- Emeritus Professor **Barry Watson**, PhD, School of Psychology & Counselling Queensland University of Technology (QUT) & Deputy Chair, Global Road Safety Partnership
- Professor **(Em) Ann Williamson**, President, Australasian College of Road Safety and Emeritus Professor, Transport and Road Safety Research Centre, School of Aviation, The University of New South Wales, Australia
- Dr **Rachael Wynne**, Lecturer, School of Psychological Sciences, The University of Newcastle, Australia