



Delivering the 20 Minute City in Hamilton, NZ

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The Story So Far...

Hon Shane Jones

1 April 2020

Government seeks infrastructure

The Government has tasked a group of industry leaders to seek out infrastructure projects that will reduce the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Economic Development and Infrastructure Minister Shane Jones said today.

The Infrastructure Industry Reference Group, to be headed by Crown Infrastructure Partners chairman Mark Binns, will include representatives from the private and public sector that are 'shovel-ready' or likely to be within six months of starting.

These new projects will be in addition to and build on the Government's existing infrastructure investment pipeline.

The Government will then decide which could be funded, contracted and delivered. The Infrastructure Industry Reference Group will also provide advice to Ministers.

"We are focused on the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders first and foremost. However, the Government is also planning ahead for when that time comes."

"That's why we are now developing a pipeline of infrastructure projects that will be shovel-ready or likely to be within six months of starting."



INFRASTRUCTURE

The good, bad, and 'shovel ready'

A call for 'shovel ready' projects has thrown up 1800 projects, many of which were already on council books. Are they still worthwhile priorities in a post-Covid world?

It was predictable. **Put out a call** for anyone to nominate 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects that cost more than \$10m and get a list of projects cash-strapped councils would rather not pay for themselves.

Crown Infrastructure Partners chairman Mark Binns said 1800 projects, collectively worth tens of billions of dollars, were submitted in response to a Government call for 'shovel ready' projects worthy of Government funding. Applications for the fund closed last Tuesday.

They're all vying for a pot of money that has no official dollar figure attached to it yet.

"There's going to be far more projects than there is going to be money," Binns said.

He heads the Infrastructure Industry Reference Group (IIRG) that will pass on a list of project options to the Cabinet in the first half of May.

The 20 minute city 'gold standard'

Hamilton has taken a different tack to other high-growth councils.

The city has teamed with iwi and three other councils to pitch a redesign of Hamilton as a central part of a "sub-regional" jobs stimulus and economic recovery package of 23 individual projects covering transport, housing and water improvements.

"The investment should be designed to stimulate local economies more generally rather than create jobs for those particular projects."

University of Waikato Professor Iain White led much of the thinking behind the \$500m "20 minute city" concept that headlines the proposal.

The aim of it was to create a city where most facilities and activities, including employment, were available within 20 minutes walking distance of one's home.

White said post-Covid infrastructure projects shouldn't just be about invisible infrastructure like pipes and reservoirs. Once the dust of Covid-19 settled, it would be important to have visible infrastructure that restored consumer confidence.

"The investment should be designed to stimulate local economies more generally rather than create jobs for those particular projects," White said.

A few weeks later

A little bit of pressure... Some great public response...



PHOTO: FRASAY

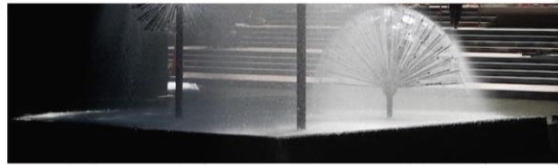
The problem with the 'shovel ready' strategy for post-Covid-19 rebuild



Iain White | Guest writer
Opinion

The public health response to Covid-19 showed New Zealand at its best. What will the economic response reveal? Iain White, a professor of environmental planning, on the risks ahead.

Crises reveal. They bring the nature of societies to light. From the differing attitude to experts between countries, to who *really* are the essential workers, to the spatial inequalities in health care provision or access to greenspace.



THE FOUNTAINS. PHOTO: SUPPLED, CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

The case for putting local at the core of NZ's economic recovery



Iain White | Guest writer
Opinion

As New Zealand prepares to move out of the strictest lockdown status, we need to ask a wider question: What kind of economy to we want to build? Iain White writes.

Like you, I want things to go back to the way they were. I crave normality. I miss my morning coffee from my local café, I miss my friends, and I miss my colleagues and students. Governments and businesses want the same thing, too. To take stock and get back up and running. It's understandable to want to restore business-as-usual.

stuff

national

Introducing the '20 Minute City': the real city of the future? •

Iain White · 05:00, May 25 2020



123RF

In a 20-minute city you could have most of what you need for a good life within that radius in a walk, cycle, or public transport trip from home.

OPINION As part of the economic recovery package, the Government made a high-profile call for 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects that could start quickly. Shortly after, it received a huge number from across the country, sparking off a great deal of discussion - from the merits of individual proposals to whether the fund encouraged transformative ideas rather than old thinking.

“Giving you most of what you need for a good life within a 20 minute walk, cycle or public transport trip from home”

Shovel-ready project '20-Minute City' a game-changer for Hamilton

24 Jun, 2020 2:29pm

4 minutes to read



If implemented, the 20-Minute City concept would put Hamilton at the cutting edge of global research into holistic city planning. Photo / Hamilton City Council

Hamilton News



A joint Waikato bid for money to rebuild the regional economy pitched 23 projects to the Government.

Last month, 22 of those projects moved to the next assessment step. All will create much-needed jobs, but one has the potential to fundamentally change the way Hamiltonians live their lives for generations to come.



City Scale Value Proposition

Key lessons from NZ:

*How to push the 20-Minute concept
without central government policy support?*

01

City Branding and Reputation (e.g. Paris)

More than 'policy'. Vision of what we value, lifestyle and why you should live/invest here

02

Integration, Coordination, and Partnerships

Supports current policy (climate, mode shift...). Helps internal/external alignment

03

Improve Citizen Engagement and engage in the 'local' scale

Different 'language' from 'policy/plans'. Allow difficult conversations. Trade-offs. Journey

04

Cost Neutral – if that's what you want...

Realignment focus. Lever in investment (Transport, Housing, Health, Sustainability, etc)

05

'Off the peg' Vs Unique: 'the City X Model'

First time in...: NZ context; post-Covid; in sub 500k city; using Maaori concepts.



What's Next?

1. Looks like 'Shovel-ready' funds not successful, BUT...
2. Pitched Mayor and Councillors, and technical staff...
3. Thinking through partnership model with University to deliver underpinning research of willingness to travel, permeability, etc
4. Development of principles, making it OURS...

Key Message:


This is a *political project*, not just a *policy* one. Don't wait for the govt. Lead, show a new imaginary, go to public, build a coalition, share risk, but allow politicians success, then embed in policy.



Thank You

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