

New Zealand Roads

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New Zealand's people and economy rely on roads. Imagine how difficult life would be without a well maintained network of roads.

We all rely on roads. Imagine life without well maintained roads.

There are many ways to travel around New Zealand, whether it is for work, getting to and from school, for errands or fun and leisure. You can choose to walk, cycle, use a motorcycle or car, or use public transport such as buses and trains. Wherever you are going it is likely that you will travel on one of New Zealand's many roads.

Good roads are an important part of a well-functioning modern society. Our communities work much better when it is easy for people to travel and when goods and services can be easily exchanged. Roads are also a community space: we 'meet' and have many interactions on the road as we navigate safely from one place to another.

History of roads

Throughout the world many modern roads started out as just tracks that people used to get from place to place. The more popular tracks were then used by people with their horses and other such animals and so became larger. In New Zealand many of our current roads were once Māori ara or pathways.

What is a road?

The common law that we inherited from England used a very simple test to determine what is a road: there had to be a 'right of way' or 'rite of passage' granted to the public by the land owner. Roads were classed as footpaths (for pedestrians), bridleways or bridle paths (with animals), or carriageways (with wheeled vehicles), depending on the type of use permitted.

Types of roads in New Zealand

There are two types of roads in New Zealand;

- [state highways](#) [3] (including motorways)

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- local roads

State Highways

State highways are roads with a national purpose. They are used to move people and goods nationwide, e.g. State Highway 1 runs the entire length of New Zealand. State highways are managed by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). The state highway network has almost 11,000 kilometres of road.

This state highway network is one of New Zealand's most valuable [assets](#) [4], and is worth \$23 billion. About \$2.2 billion is spent each year on maintaining these roads.

Local roads

Local roads are used to move people and goods within regions. These roads are managed by local government. There are 83,000 kilometres of local roads throughout New Zealand.

As a small, sparsely populated country, New Zealand relies on a well-developed transport network to move people, goods and services safely and efficiently. The length of road per person in New Zealand is one of the highest in the world.

The development of roads is important for economic growth because better roads can improve safety and save time and money.

Improving roads

One important road project is the Wellington Northern Corridor. This project includes 110km of four-lane expressway from Levin to Wellington Airport. This will improve safety and improve traffic flow.

Part of this project has been designed to allow a National War Memorial Park to be built in central Wellington. A tunnel will create an underpass so that Memorial Park and the National War Memorial can be brought together. Currently Buckle Street runs right through the middle of this area.

There are many reasons why you need to travel:

- going to and from school or work
- for fun and leisure
- for taking goods from one place to another.

You can choose to:

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- walk
- cycle
- use a motorcycle or car
- use buses and trains.

Wherever you are going you will travel on one of New Zealand's many roads.

Good roads are an important part of a modern society. Our communities work better when it is easy for people to travel and when goods and services can be easily exchanged.

Roads are a community space. We 'meet' people on the roads at traffic lights, on the motorway and at roundabouts. Most of our interactions on the road help keep us safe as we travel.

History of roads

- Many roads started out as just tracks that people used to get from place to place
- The more popular tracks were used by people with their horses and other animals and so became larger
- In New Zealand many of our roads were once Māori ara or pathways.

What is a road?

A road can be used for different purposes.

- footpaths are for pedestrians
- bridleways (or bridle paths) are for animals
- carriageways are for wheeled vehicles

Types of roads in New Zealand

There are two types of roads in New Zealand;

1. [state highways](#) [3] (including motorways)
2. local roads

1. State Highways

- State highways are roads with a national purpose
- They are used to move people and goods nationwide
- State Highway 1 runs the entire length of New Zealand
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New Zealand's state highway network is one of our most valuable [assets](#) [4]. It is worth \$23 billion. About \$2.2 billion is spent each year on maintaining these roads.

2. Local roads

- Local roads are used to move people and goods within regions
- They are managed by local government
- There are 83,000 kilometres of local roads throughout New Zealand.

Compared to other countries New Zealand has few people spread over a large area. The length of road per person in New Zealand is one of the highest in the world.

Better roads can improve safety and save time and money. The development of roads is important for economic growth.

Improving roads

One important New Zealand road project is the Wellington Northern Corridor.

- It includes 110km of four-lane expressway on State Highway One from Levin to Wellington Airport
- It will improve safety and improve traffic flow.

Part of this project has been designed to allow a National War Memorial Park to be built in central Wellington.

- A tunnel will create an underpass so that Memorial Park and the National War Memorial can be brought together
- Currently Buckle Street runs through the middle of this area.

Māori keywords:

ara [5]	pathway, lane, track
rori matua [6]	main road, highway, motorway, expressway
rori [7]	road
pekanga [8]	side road, branch
tiriti [9]	street
Waka Kotahi [10]	NZ Transport Agency

Audio Māori keywords:

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- [ara - pathway, lane, track](#) [11]
- [rori matua - main road, highway, motorway, expressway](#) [12]
- [rori - road](#) [13]
- [pekanga - side road, branch](#) [14]
- [tiriti - street](#) [15]
- [Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency](#) [16]

Samoaan keywords:

magāala	pathway, lane, track
auala autu	main road, highway, motorway, expressway
auala	road
iti auala	side road, branch
auala	street
Ofisa a Femalagaiga	NZ Transport Agency

Tongan keywords:

halanga	pathway, lane, track
hala lahi	main road, highway, motorway, expressway
hala	road
hala loto	side road, branch
hala loto kolo	street
Potungaue Fefononga'aki	NZ Transport Agency

Cook Islands Maori keywords:

ara	pathway, lane, track
ara metua	main road, highway, motorway, expressway
ara	road
ara iti	side road, branch
ara	street
Opati Aka'aere ite au mea Akaoro o Nuti Ran	NZ Transport Agency

Niuean keywords:

tau hala o hui	pathway, lane, track
puhala-tu holo mafiti, puhala-tu lahi	main road, highway, motorway, expressway

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puhala-tu	road
kala puhala tu, mafega-hala	side road, branch
puhala	street
Faahi Fakatonu he tau Peleoafi a Niu Silani	NZ Transport Agency

Choose a road in your region and find out about its history: who first created it and why was it created?

Choose a road near your school. Find out about its history: who first created it, where did it get its name, why was it created?



[17]

State Highway 1 runs the length of this country. This photo shows part of State Highway 1 in Auckland. Image: Public Domain.



[18]

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Local roads are maintained by councils rather than NZTA. Image: LEARNZ.



[19]

Not all roads are of an equal standard. This is a gravel road by Lake Coleridge. Image: Public Domain.

Source URL:

<http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/new-zealand-roads-mp134>

Links

[1] http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/new-zealand-roads_1.mp3?uuid=5f6dbc689c74a

[2] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/new-zealand-roads-easy.mp3?uid=5f6dbc689c038>

[3] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#statehighway>

[4] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#asset>

[5] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/ara.mp3>

[6] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/rori-matua.mp3>

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[11]

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[12] http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/rori-matua_1.mp3?uuid=5f6dbc689c995

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[14] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/pekanga.mp3?uuid=5f6dbc689cb84>

[15]

<http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/tiriti.mp3?uuid=5f6dbc689cc76>

[16] http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/waka-kotahi_0.mp3?uuid=5f6dbc689cd67

[17]

<http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-mp134-01-state-highway-1.jpg>

[18] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-mp134-02-local-roads.jpg>

[19] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-mp134-03-gravel-road.jpg>