



RESEARCH FIRST

Road Controlling Authorities

FORUM SURVEY

Research Report | April 2021



1	Key Messages	3
2	Research Method	6
3	Likelihood of Attending RCA Forums	9
4	Summary of Interest for Forum Topic Areas	11
5	Forum Topics in Detail	13
6	Appendix	24

Disclaimer:

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Section 1

KEY MESSAGES



To help with the planning process for upcoming RCA forums, a short survey that asked forum members to indicate their level of interest for nine different topic areas (and 53 proposed individual topics) was sent to all forum members (identified by RCAF).

Forum members were also asked to identify their preferred mode of delivery for future forums and identify any other topics they would like to see included in future RCA forums.

The survey was completed by a self-selected sample of 67 forum members.

The key findings were:

Most Preferred Mode of Delivery:
Webinars are likely to provide the most efficient mode of delivery

Forum Topic Areas with Highest Level of Interest:
Speed setting rules
Operating environment
Planning for people

Top-10: Individual Topics with Highest Levels of Interest
1. Operating Environment: Increasing maintenance, operations and capital costs
2. Speed Setting Rules: Current and a new approach
3. Planning for People; RMA reform – what does this mean for the transport sector
4. Roding Efficiency: Collaboration between RCA's (sharing best practice)
5. Waka Kotahi: NLTF funding position and flexibility
6. Roding Efficiency: Procurement and how to deliver on service levels while achieving value for money
7. Speed Setting Rules: The role of the regulator
8. Planning for People: Stormwater runoff from roads and impact on receiving waters
9. Operating Environment: Future funding model, considering electric vehicles
10. Waka Kotahi: RLTP/NLTP preparation

**Forum Topic Areas with Lowest Level of Interest**

KiwiRail

Post COVID-19

Health and Safety

Bottom-5: Individual Topics with Lowest Levels of Interest

- 1.** KiwiRail: Interisland ferries
- 2.** KiwiRail: Strategic opportunities for interisland ferries
- 3.** Post COVID-19 topics: Physical impacts on health
- 4.** KiwiRail: Passenger rail
- 5.** KiwiRail: strategic opportunities: passenger rail



Section 2

RESEARCH METHOD



Research Context

The Road Controlling Authorities Forum (New Zealand) Incorporated (RCAF) was established in 1996. The organisation is a closed, non-political incorporated society of road asset managers and roading professionals from all local, territorial authorities (except the Chatham Islands Council), the Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai) and the New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi).

The purpose of the RCAF is to exchange information and provide updates on sector working group activities, proposed legislation, new standards and guidelines, highway and procurement strategies and other issues relevant to road controlling authorities and the other member organisations.

The RCA Forums (run as three one-day face-to-face forums per year¹) enable members to exchange information and provide updates:

- on sector working group activities,
- proposed legislation,
- new standards and guidelines,
- highway and procurement strategies, and
- other issues relevant to road controlling authorities and the other member organisations.

To help plan the 2021 forums, the RCA Executive was interested in finding out from members their interest in topics they could bundle together for future webinars and (or) forums. This report details the findings from research designed to provide the level of interest for the following topic areas:

1. Roding Efficiency Group
2. Waka Kotahi
3. KiwiRail
4. Planning for People
5. Post COVID-19 Topics
6. Alternative Mode Topics
7. Operating Environment
8. Health and Safety
9. Speed Setting Rules

1 Due to COVID-19, the seminars were run via online webinars



Research Design

Research First was engaged in running this survey to enable forum members to answer confidentially to avoid any perceived biases.

A quantitative survey consultation process was designed to ensure engagement with all forum members.

The survey was sent out to a list of members provided by RCAF (n=578). An email invitation was followed by two reminders over three weeks, from 17 March to 9 April 2021.

A total of 67 respondents completed the survey, with an average completion time of nine minutes. The response rate was 11.6 percent.



Section 3

LIKELIHOOD OF ATTENDING RCA FORUMS

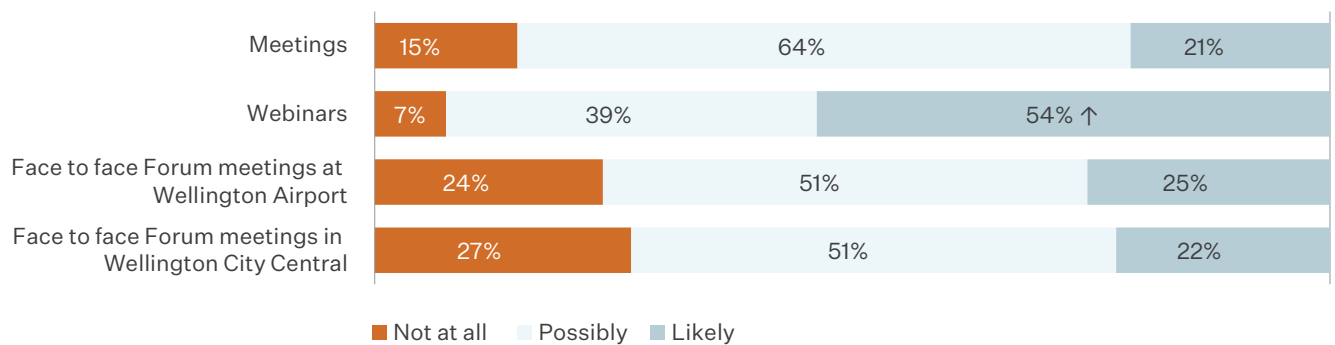


Members were asked about their likelihood of attending future forums via different modes of delivery.

Attending webinars was the most popular delivery mode indicated by over half of the respondents (n=36 of 67) and is likely to provide the most effective mode of delivery in the future. Note: this finding may have been influenced by webinars' seminars over the COVID-19 pandemic period, where members may have become more comfortable with this mode of delivery.

Face-to-face forum meetings at Wellington Airport or Wellington City Central received equal interest levels, similar to the interest garnered for meetings overall.

Figure 3-1 Likelihood of attending future forums (by mode of delivery) n=67





Section 4

SUMMARY OF INTEREST FOR FORUM TOPIC AREAS



When the level of interest was averaged by forum topic area, Speed Setting Rules, Operating Environment, and Planning for People were ranked as the topic areas with the highest interest levels.

But Post COVID-19 topics and KiwiRail showed low levels of interest.

	Forum Area	Level of High Interest	Level of Medium Interest
1	Speed Setting Rules	60%	26%
2	Operating Environment	50%	33%
3	Planning for People	49%	36%
4	Roading Efficiency Group	44%	40%
5	Alternative Mode Topics	41%	33%
6	Waka Kotahi	40%	38%
7	Health and Safety	36%	36%
8	Post COVID-19	24%	35%
9	Kiwi Rail	24%	46%

Rankings for individual topics are listed in Appendix 6.1.



Section 5

FORUM TOPICS IN DETAIL



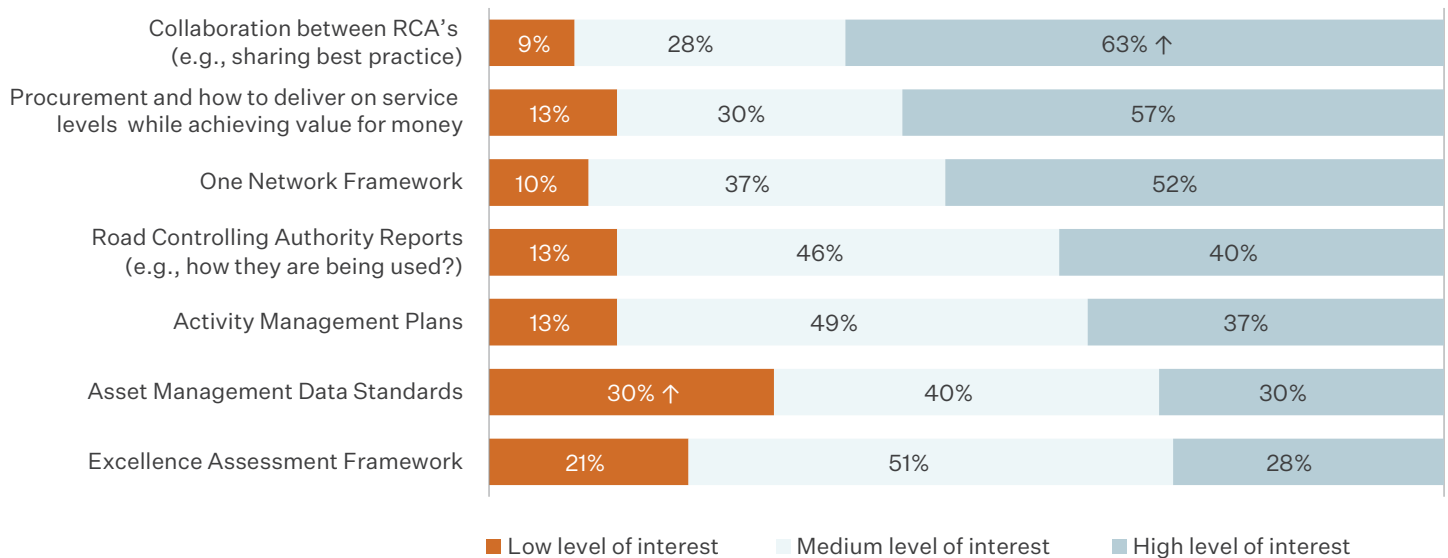
Roading Efficiency Group

Members were asked their level of interest for nine groupings of seminars. The first grouping asked about Roding Efficiency Group seminar topics.

Collaboration between RCA members, such as sharing best practice, was the topic that received the highest level of interest (42 of 67 respondents), followed by Procurement (n=38 respondents) and One Network Framework (n=35).

Asset Management Data Standards received the most polarised responses regarding levels of interest.

Figure 5-1 Level of interest for Roding Efficiency Group forum topics (n=67)



When considering high-interest levels, Roding Efficiency Group forum topics were ranked fourth (from nine) topic areas.

Table 5-1 Average level of interest for Roding Efficiency Group

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
16%	40%	44%



Waka Kotahi

Offering NLTF Funding position and flexibility (n=41 of 67 forum members) and RLTP/NLTP preparation (n=36) were the two forum topic areas that received the highest level of interest from members.

The lowest ranked four topics were evenly balanced between high and low levels of interest.

Figure 5-2 Level of interest for Waka Kotahi forum topics (n=67)

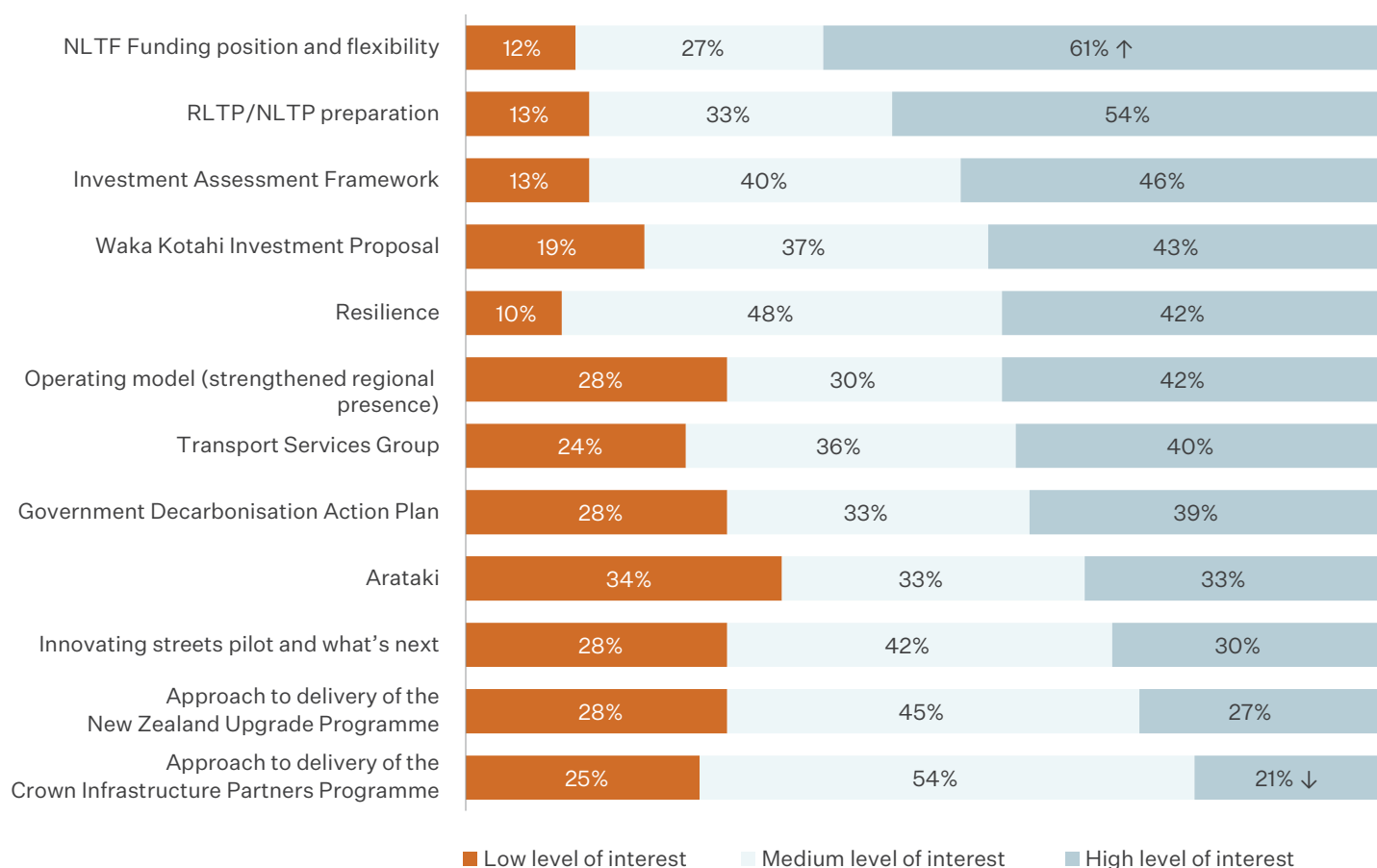


Table 5-2 shows the average group level of interest. Waka Kotahi was ranked sixth among nine topic areas when looking at higher levels of interest.

Table 5-2 Average levels of interest for Waka Kotahi

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
22%	38%	40%

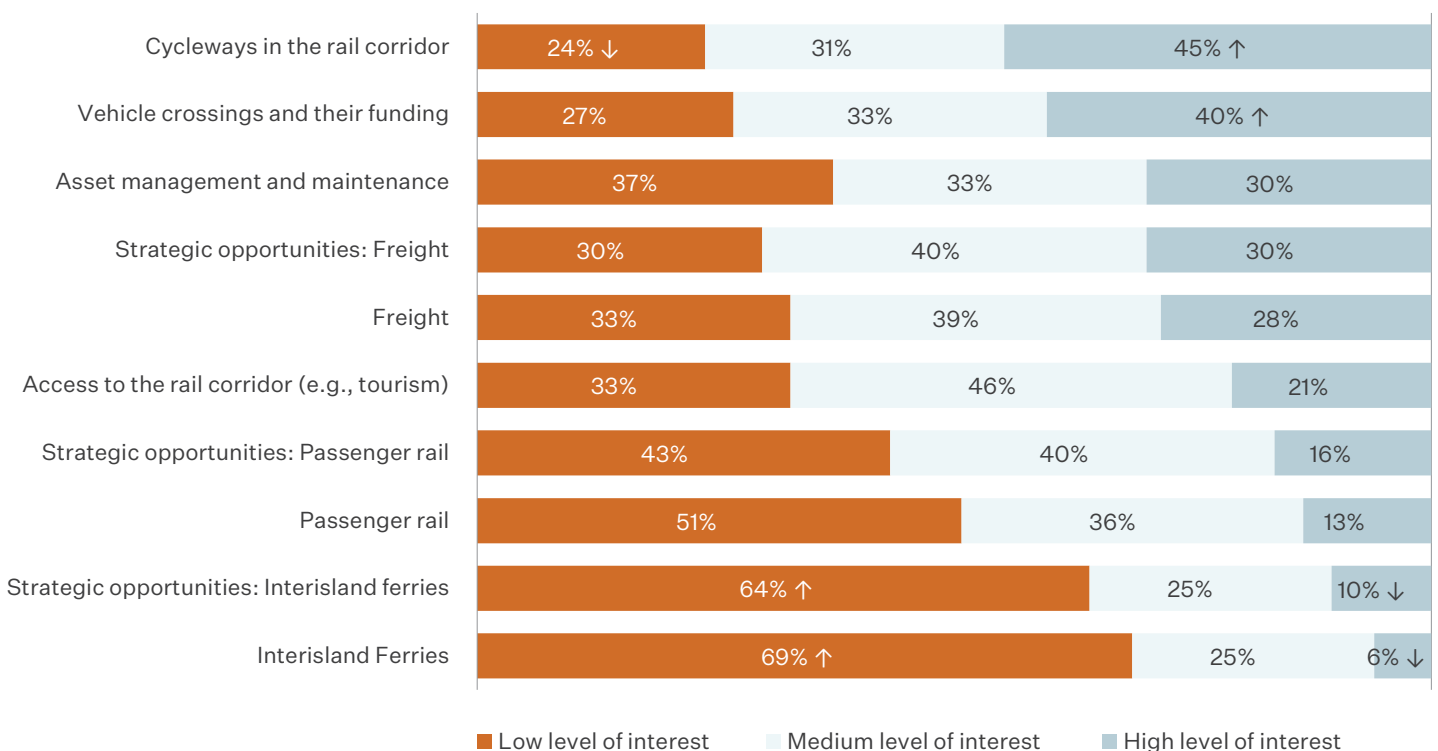


KiwiRail

Compared to all the other topic areas, KiwiRail received the lowest interest levels among forum member respondents, particularly Interisland Ferries and their strategic opportunities and passenger rail.

But safety issues such as cycleways in the rail corridor and vehicle crossing funding received the highest interest levels in this group of forum topics.

Figure 5-3 Level of interest for KiwiRail forum topics (n=67)



When averaged, KiwiRail forum topics were ranked last compared to all other topic areas.

Table 5-3 Average levels of interest for KiwiRail

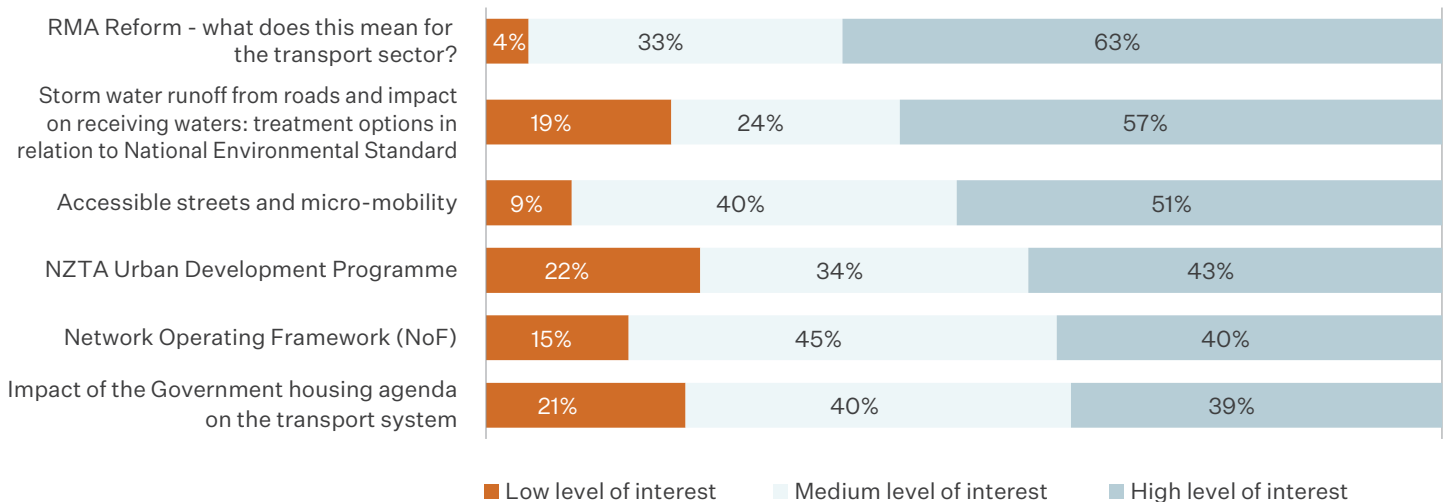
Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
41%	35%	24%



Planning for People

The three topic areas for Planning for People that received the highest levels of interest were RMA reform (n=42), stormwater runoff (n=38), and accessible streets (n=34 of 67 respondents).

Figure 5-4 Level of interest for Planning for People forum topics (n=67)



Planning for people was ranked third among the nine topic areas when considering the depth of interest.

Table 5-4 Average levels of interest for Planning for People

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
15%	36%	49%

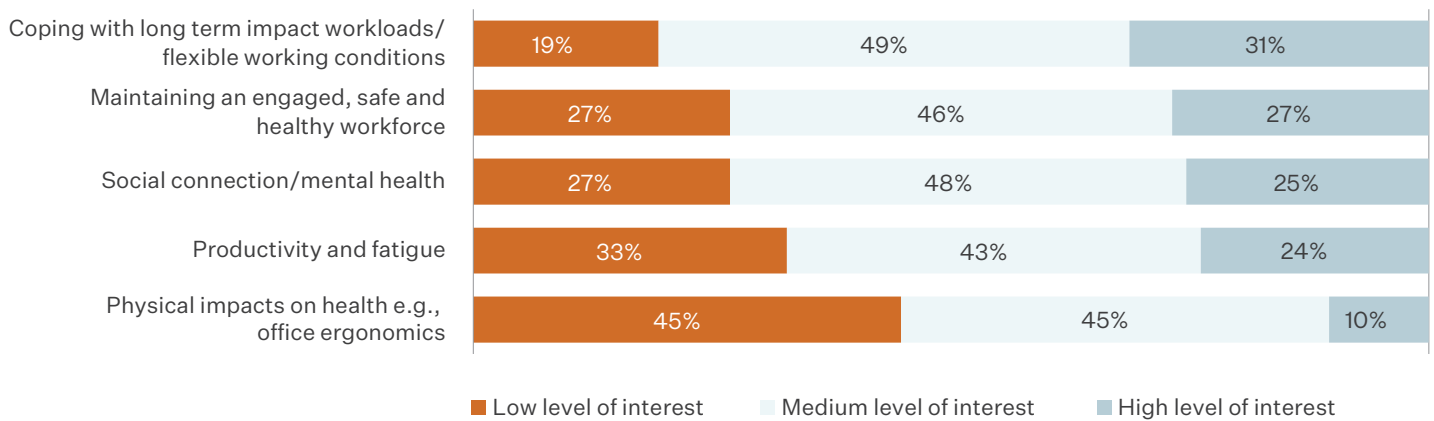


Post COVID-19 Topics

Forum members showed less interest in post-COVID-19 topic areas when compared to all other topics, apart from KiwiRail.

In more detail, coping with long term impacts on workloads received the highest level of interest (n=21 from 67 respondents). However, the levels of interest were similar for most of the remaining topics. But the physical impacts on health received the lowest level of interest.

Figure 5-5 Level of interest for Post COVID-19 forum topics (n=67)



Overall, Post COVID-19 topics were ranked eighth from nine topic areas.

Table 5-5 Average levels of interest for Post COVID-19

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
30%	46%	24%



Alternative Mode Topics

Integrating commuter and recreational cycleways and traffic demand management in action received the highest interest levels among respondents.

Mass rapid transport was a polarising topic area that received low levels of interest.

Figure 5-6 Average levels of interest for Alternative Mode forum topics (n=67)

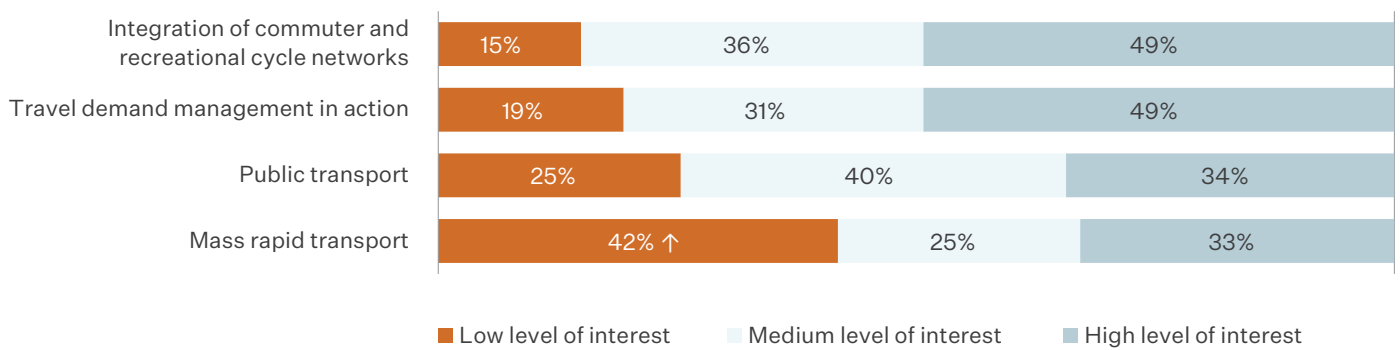


Table 5-6 Average levels of interest for Alternative Mode Topics

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
25%	33%	41%

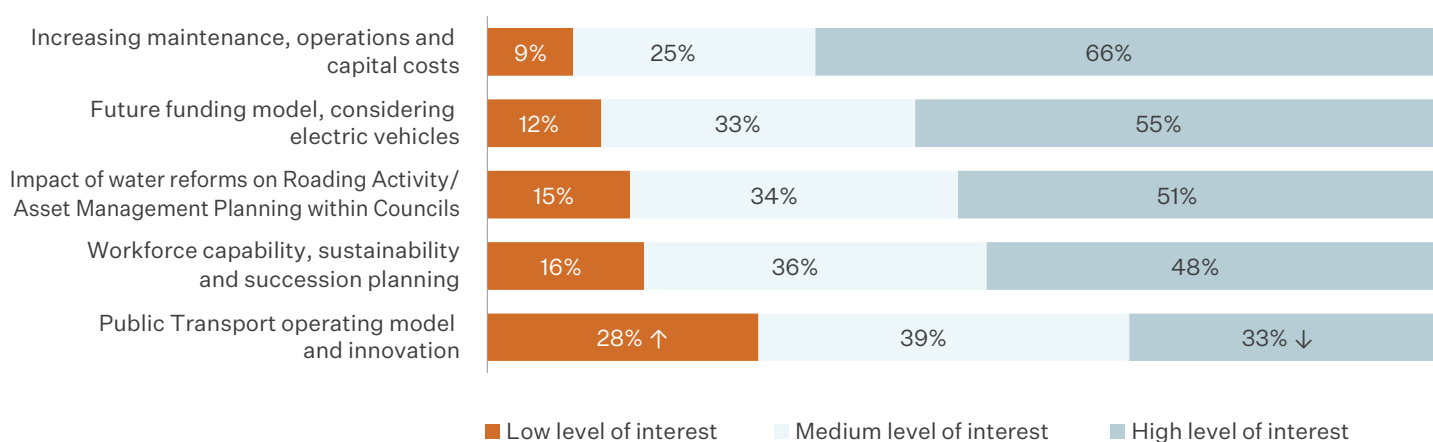


Operating Environment

The Operating Environment topic area received high levels of interest from forum members, particularly Increasing Maintenance, Operations and Capital Costs (91 percent high and medium levels of interest).

Interest was lowest for Public Transport operating model and innovation in this topic series.

Figure 5-7 Average levels of interest for Operating Environment forum topics (n=67)



Half of all respondents indicated a high level of interest in this topic area, and a further third indicated medium interest. The Operating Environment was ranked second when high levels of interest were averaged.

Table 5-7 Average levels of interest for Operating Environment

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
16%	33%	50%



Health and Safety

While Traffic Management Approaches received a good level of interest, forum members indicated a lower level of interest in crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).

Figure 5-8 Average levels of interest for Health and Safety forum topics (n=67)

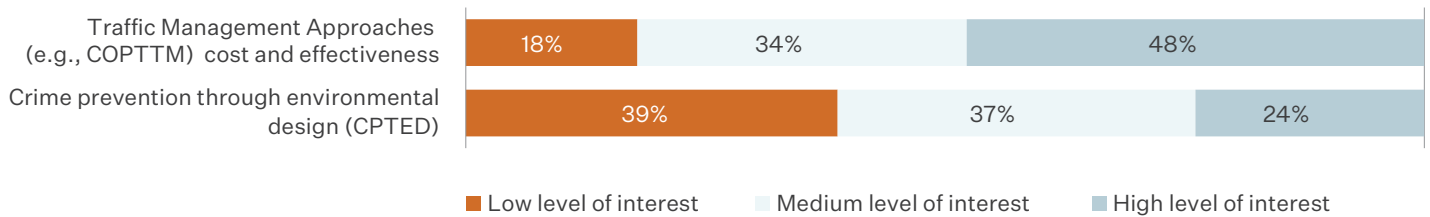


Table 5-8 Average levels of interest for Health and Safety

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
28%	36%	36%



Speed Setting Rules

Forum members indicated a very high level of interest in speed setting rules.

Although this topic area only included two topic areas, this topic area received the highest level of interest at 60 percent when averaged.

Figure 5-9 Average levels of interest for Speed Setting Rule forum topics (n=67)

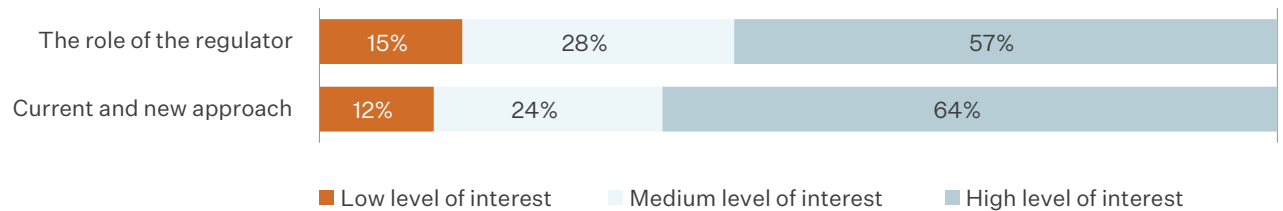


Table 5-9 Average levels of interest for Speed Setting Rules

Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
13%	26%	60%



Other Topics of Interest

All forum members were asked to comment if they could identify any other topics they would like to have included in future RCA Forums. Nineteen members offered suggestions as follow:

- Possibility of separating the NLTF into a Metro portion and others.
- More on the Road to Zero Strategy - how it's tracking, initiatives in place, Safe Network Programme progress. Low-cost low risk engineering measures, the role of road maintenance in road safety outcomes, Speed management plans - engineering up options. Funding available for road safety initiatives.
- Would be good to hear the voice of the supply chain and how they are placed to meet the needs of future infrastructure.
- Influencing GPS. Rural Provincial vs Metropolitan competition for funding
- Practical topics around network management and performance. Effective and appropriate data capture. Implementation of national strategies i.e., around speed and effective
- Urban freight issues, last mile logistics, decarbonisation of freight
- Road to Zero action plan
- Condition Rating - the future of Improvement Plans - management of
- Keep up the good work
- Public Transport Infrastructure - RCA supporting our PT networks
- Improvement opportunities for the coordination of LTP / RLTP / NLTP.
- A key issue for discussion across the country is the investment in maintenance & operations and renewals of the existing roading network. A well-maintained network is also a safer network.
- When is NZTS going to deliver in South Island outside of Christchurch and Kikarua [Kaikoura]?
- The NZTA annual plan process and RAPP tour seem to have little value. We spend significant time and funds on preparing the plan and telling the story, but they skip to last page and already know the outcome.
- Less of REG.
- Road to zero, traffic standards.
- Shifting heavy transport from road to rail, except for local distribution; National uniform standards for improved TMP requirements for cattle crossings; Review and rationalise health and safety regulations and TMPs to reduce and curb the huge rise in costs; Review the road rules to add a rule "first come, first go" to use at intersections when traffic lights don't work.
- I am a Mayor and believe this Forum is a technical group and should be devoid of any political input. It should be for Technical Management Personnel only.
- Coordinated forward works coordinated procurement approaches (panels, etc).



Section 6

APPENDIX



Overall Level of Interest by Topics of Interest

Topic Area	Individual Topics	Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
1 Operating Environment	Increasing maintenance, operations and capital costs	9%	25%	66%
2 Speed setting rules	Current and new approach	12%	24%	64%
3 Planning for People	RMA Reform - what does this mean for the transport sector?	4%	33%	63%
4 Roding Efficiency Group	Collaboration between RCA's (e.g., sharing best practice)	9%	28%	63%
5 Waka Kotahi	NLTF Funding position and flexibility	12%	27%	61%
6 Roding Efficiency Group	Procurement and how to deliver on service levels while achieving value for money	13%	30%	57%
7 Speed setting rules	The role of the regulator	15%	28%	57%
8 Planning for People	Storm water runoff from roads and impact on receiving waters: treatment options in relation to National Environment Standard	19%	24%	57%
9 Operating Environment	Future funding model, considering electric vehicles	12%	33%	55%
10 Waka Kotahi	RLTP/NLTP preparation	13%	33%	54%
11 Roding Efficiency Group	One Network Framework	10%	37%	52%
12 Planning for People	Accessible streets and micro-mobility	9%	40%	51%
13 Operating Environment	Impact of water reforms on Roding Activity/ Asset Management Planning within Councils	15%	34%	51%
14 Alternative Mode Topics	Integration of commuter and recreational cycle networks	15%	36%	49%
15 Alternative Mode Topics	Travel demand management in action	19%	31%	49%
16 Operating Environment	Workforce capability, sustainability and succession planning	16%	36%	48%
17 Health and Safety	Traffic Management Approaches (e.g., COPTTM) cost and effectiveness	18%	34%	48%
18 Waka Kotahi	Investment Assessment Framework	13%	40%	46%
19 Kiwi Rail	Cycleways in the rail corridor	24%	31%	45%
20 Waka Kotahi	Waka Kotahi Investment Proposal	19%	37%	43%
21 Planning for People	NZTA Urban Development Programme	22%	34%	43%
22 Waka Kotahi	Resilience	10%	48%	42%
23 Waka Kotahi	Operating model (strengthened regional presence)	28%	30%	42%
24 Roding Efficiency Group	Road Controlling Authority Reports (e.g., how they are being used?)	13%	46%	40%
25 Planning for People	Network Operating Framework (NoF)	15%	45%	40%
26 Waka Kotahi	Transport Services Group	24%	36%	40%
27 Kiwi Rail	Vehicle crossings and their funding	27%	33%	40%



Topic Area	Individual Topics	Low level of interest	Medium level of interest	High level of interest
28 Planning for People	Impact of the Government housing agenda on the transport system	21%	40%	39%
29 Waka Kotahi	Government Decarbonisation Action Plan	28%	33%	39%
30 Roothing Efficiency Group	Activity Management Plans	13%	49%	37%
31 Alternative Mode Topics	Public transport	25%	40%	34%
32 Operating Environment	Public Transport operating model and innovation	28%	39%	33%
33 Waka Kotahi	Arataki	34%	33%	33%
34 Alternative Mode Topics	Mass rapid transport	42%	25%	33%
35 Post COVID-19 Topics	Coping with long term impact workloads/ flexible working conditions	19%	49%	31%
36 Waka Kotahi	Innovating streets pilot and what's next	28%	42%	30%
37 Roothing Efficiency Group	Asset Management Data Standards	30%	40%	30%
38 Kiwi Rail	Strategic opportunities: Freight	30%	40%	30%
39 Kiwi Rail	Asset management and maintenance	37%	33%	30%
40 Roothing Efficiency Group	Excellence Assessment Framework	21%	51%	28%
41 Kiwi Rail	Freight	33%	39%	28%
42 Post COVID-19 Topics	Maintaining an engaged, safe and healthy workforce	27%	46%	27%
43 Waka Kotahi	Approach to delivery of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme	28%	45%	27%
44 Post COVID-19 Topics	Social connection/mental health	27%	48%	25%
45 Post COVID-19 Topics	Productivity and fatigue	33%	43%	24%
46 Health and Safety	Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)	39%	37%	24%
47 Waka Kotahi	Approach to delivery of the Crown Infrastructure Partners Programme	25%	54%	21%
48 Kiwi Rail	Access to the rail corridor (e.g., tourism)	33%	46%	21%
49 Kiwi Rail	Strategic opportunities: Passenger rail	43%	40%	16%
50 Kiwi Rail	Passenger rail	51%	36%	13%
51 Post COVID-19 Topics	Physical impacts on health e.g., office ergonomics	45%	45%	10%
52 Kiwi Rail	Strategic opportunities: Interisland ferries	64%	25%	10%
53 Kiwi Rail	Interisland Ferries	69%	25%	6%



Survey Invitation and Question Areas

Email Invitation

Email Subject Line: Have your say on planning the upcoming RCA Forum.

Kia ora,

This email is to invite you to have an input on planning upcoming RCA Forums.

We would really value your opinions on targeting forum topics and finding out what types of meetings and webinars you would value attending.

This short survey will take only 10 minutes to complete. Thank you for giving us this 10 minutes in what we know is a very busy period.

Question Areas

Likelihood of Attending RCA Forum

To start, The RCA Forum would like to know your likelihood of attending the following... *Choose one option from each question.*

#		Likelihood of attending		
		Not at all	Possibly	Likely
1	Meetings	1	2	3
2	Webinars	1	2	3
3	Face to face Forum meetings at Wellington Airport	1	2	3
4	Face to face Forum meetings in Wellington City Central	1	2	3

**Proposed Topics for Future RCA Forums**

The next questions ask about your level of interest in proposed topics for future RCA Forums. Please indicate your level of interest for each topic.

A. Starting with the Roothing Efficiency Group. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS.

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
5	One Network Framework	1	2	3
6	Activity Management Plans	1	2	3
7	Excellence Assessment Framework	1	2	3
8	Asset Management Data Standards	1	2	3
9	Road Controlling Authority Reports (e.g., how they are being used?)	1	2	3
10	Collaboration between RCA's (e.g., sharing best practice}	1	2	3
11	Procurement and how to deliver on service levels while achieving value for money	1	2	3

B. The next questions are about Waka Kotahi. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS.

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
12	RLTP/NLTP preparation	1	2	3
13	NLTF Funding position and flexibility	1	2	3
14	Investment Assessment Framework	1	2	3
15	Approach to delivery of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme	1	2	3
16	Approach to delivery of the Crown Infrastructure Partners Programme	1	2	3
17	Operating model (strengthened regional presence)	1	2	3
18	Resilience	1	2	3
19	Arataki – where to next?	1	2	3
20	Waka Kotahi Investment Proposal	1	2	3



#		Level of Interest		
21	Government Decarbonisation Action Plan	1	2	3
22	Innovating streets pilot and what's next	1	2	3
23	Transport Services Group – engagement on new and changing operational policies and standards, and updates on current technical research development	1	2	3

C. The next questions are about KiwiRail. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS but keep Q27-29 together.

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
24	Vehicle crossings and their funding	1	2	3
25	Access to the rail corridor (e.g., tourism)	1	2	3
26	Cycleways in the rail corridor	1	2	3
27	Strategic opportunities: Passenger rail	1	2	3
28	Strategic opportunities: Freight	1	2	3
29	Strategic opportunities: Interisland ferries	1	2	3
30	Passenger rail	1	2	3
31	Freight	1	2	3
32	Interisland Ferries	1	2	3
33	Asset management and maintenance	1	2	3

D. Next is Planning for People. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
34	Network Operating Framework (NoF)	1	2	3
35	NZTA Urban Development Programme	1	2	3
36	Accessible streets and micro-mobility	1	2	3
37	RMA Reform - what does this mean for the transport sector?	1	2	3



#		Level of Interest		
38	Impact of the Government housing agenda on the transport system	1	2	3
39	Stormwater runoff from roads and impact on receiving waters: treatment options in relation to National Environment Standard freshwater	1	2	3

E. Post COVID-19 Topics. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
40	Maintaining an engaged, safe and healthy workforce	1	2	3
41	Physical impacts on health, e.g., office ergonomics	1	2	3
42	Productivity and fatigue	1	2	3
43	Social connection/mental health	1	2	3
44	Coping with long term impact workloads/flexible working conditions	1	2	3

F. Alternative Mode Topics. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
45	Travel demand management in action	1	2	3
46	Integration of commuter and recreational cycle networks	1	2	3
47	Public transport	1	2	3
48	Mass rapid transport	1	2	3

G. Next is Operating Environment. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
49	Workforce capability, sustainability and succession planning	1	2	3



#		Level of Interest		
50	Impact of water reforms on Rooding Activity/Asset Management Planning within Councils	1	2	3
51	Public Transport operating model and innovation	1	2	3
52	Future funding model, considering electric vehicles	1	2	3
53	Increasing maintenance, operations and capital costs			

H. Health and Safety follow: *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
54	Traffic Management Approaches (e.g., COPTTM) cost and effectiveness	1	2	3
55	Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)	1	2	3

I. Speed setting rules. *Choose one option from each question.*

RANDOMISE ANSWERING OPTIONS

#		Level of Interest		
		Low level of interest	Medium level of Interest	High level of interest
56	Current and new approach	1	2	3
57	The role of the regulator	1	2	3

Finally, please identify any other topics you would like to have in future RCA Forums.

Verbatim:

Nothing else



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