**Hamilton to Auckland: Can driving there for work be more sustainable than taking the train?**

The recent investment in the Te Huia Rail service between Auckland and Hamilton has provided a viable alternative to driving when travelling between the two cities. Using the traditional journey comparison indicators of time, cost and comfort, driving does appear to be favoured. However other qualitative influences such as social, mental and well-being aspects of journey types are less discussed in the context of travel behaviour change.

This was the debate for the transport planner at WSP Auckland, who recently took Te Huia to travel to Hamilton for work. During the train journey, a comparative assessment of driving vs taking the train from Auckland to Hamilton was formed. The focus was to support the journey comparison debate with inputs from social, mental health and well-being aspects, as well as an emphasis on directly comparing the relative carbon emissions for the different office to office journey. The resulting assessment took the comparison a step further to investigate the threshold of where driving may achieve a lower carbon footprint that taking the train.

This presentation will provide an overview of our return journey between Auckland and Hamilton, highlight our considerations for the qualitative influences and report the results from our carbon emissions assessments for the mode comparison. A follow up paper will document the methodology, assumptions, the results and conclusions for the driving vs train journey comparison based on Te Huia.