



Everybody wins when the bus comes first

Main North Road bus priority measures

Feedback from consultation

In October 2007 Transit New Zealand (Transit) wrote to residents asking for feedback on a number of initiatives designed to help improve the reliability of bus services using Main North Road.

These are being considered in response to a steadily growing population and the resulting car traffic that is causing increased congestion and pollution. One way to help resolve this is to support greater use of our city's buses by improving their reliability.

We wish to thank residents and other stakeholders who participated and provided feedback. The purpose of this flyer is to give you details of the varying viewpoints received and describe the final concept design. This concept design is expected to carry forward into detailed design for construction in the New Year.

How did we consult?

The consultation process has to date included:

- ▶ Direct mail out of consultation material and feedback forms to all properties on Main North Road.
- ▶ Two open days at St Bede's College and one at Belfast School.
- ▶ Liaison with stakeholders, including meetings and phone calls with your local community board, schools, businesses and bus operators.
- ▶ Presentation stands in Northlands Mall.

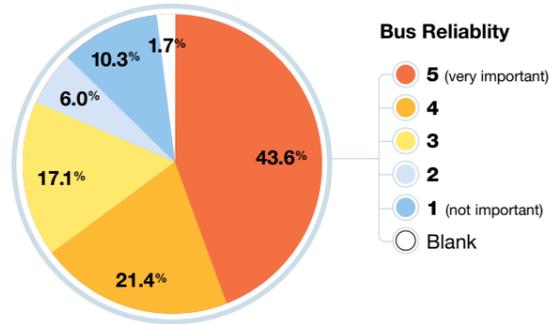
646 feedback forms and newsletters were sent out and we received 117 qualifying responses which were then reviewed.

Inside you will find a summary of the feedback received

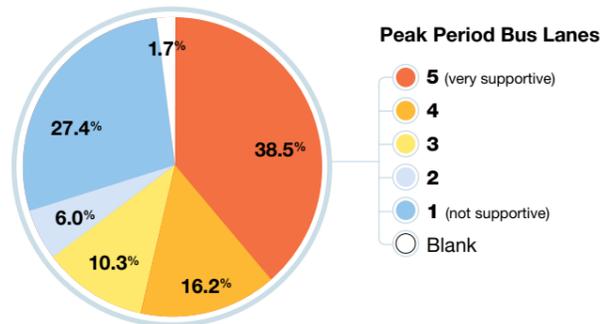
[New Zealand Government](#)

Feedback received to questions asked

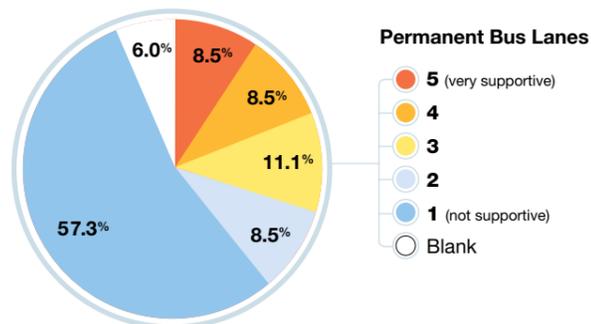
Question A: How important to you is having a good, reliable bus service in Christchurch?



Question B: How supportive are you of peak period bus lanes, to help improve bus reliability?



Question C: How supportive would you be for permanent (as opposed to peak period) bus lanes?



Main issues arising from feedback

- ▶ Concern about the availability of parking outside of private property
- ▶ Concern about the availability of parking outside of schools, businesses and other facilities
- ▶ That the width of road may not be sufficient to support an additional lane
- ▶ That existing cycle lanes are kept and that bus drivers are considerate of cyclists
- ▶ Concern that buses will be given priority to the detriment of other road users
- ▶ That buses are not going to use the proposed bus lanes fully

Steps taken to address these issues

Concern about the availability of parking outside of private property

A number of respondents were not supportive of peak period bus lanes, mainly due to trouble with on street parking outside their property. 15 do not have bus lanes proposed in their location and 6 would have their issues resolved with bus lanes operating between the hours of 7am-9am (southbound) and 3pm-6pm (northbound) Monday to Friday. These hours are reduced from the 2pm-6pm originally proposed. Outside of these hours and at weekends the bus lanes can be used for parking.

Concern about the availability of parking outside of schools, businesses and other facilities

No bus lane is proposed outside Belfast School in the southbound direction. However one is proposed in the northbound direction. The school's Kea Crossing will be retained but made wider for the northbound bus lane. Bus lanes outside identified businesses would run from 7am-9am, which would improve parking for customers, as all-day parking will be discouraged.

That the width of road may not be sufficient to support an additional lane

Generally the shoulder area, which is used for parking will accommodate the bus lane. The bus lanes do not run the whole length of Main North Road and only operate at peak travel times (see map opposite for location).

That existing cycle lanes are kept and that bus drivers are considerate of cyclists

Cycle lanes will still function as an integral part of the bus lane. The bus companies have detailed that specialist training will be carried out for drivers using bus lanes and particular emphasis will be placed on giving due regard to cyclists.

Concern that buses will be given priority to the detriment of other road users

Transit New Zealand aims to ensure that traffic flow is improved for buses. The removal of buses from the general traffic will ensure a consistent and reliable service for bus passengers. It is acknowledged that buses will be given a few seconds of priority at some intersections, however adjustments in timings and linkage of traffic signals will benefit all road users.

That buses are not going to use the proposed bus lanes fully

Bus lanes are only to operate during morning and afternoon peak travel times when buses are most frequent.

Location of Bus Lanes on the Main North Road



Where to from here

Feedback from stakeholders, including those living along Main North Road, showed support for peak period bus lanes and showed opposition to permanent 24 hour bus lanes. Consequently, the recommendation is for the design and construction of peak period bus lanes on Main North Road.

During detailed design and prior to any construction, Transit will work closely with stakeholders, including adjacent residents.

Transit is working to time the construction of bus priority measures north of QEII Drive with the construction of the Christchurch City Council's work south of QEII Drive to Bealey Avenue. This should enable a significant package of bus priority measures to be opened together and provide bus travel time certainty between the end of the Northern Motorway and Bealey Avenue.

Construction of the lanes is currently expected to start next year at the earliest. The majority of the work will be related to changing road markings and road signs. There will also be some minor kerb and channel works.

Transit New Zealand, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury would like to thank you for participating in this project. It is Transit's goal to make sure you are kept informed throughout this bus priority project.

To find out more about bus priority measures visit www.buspriority.co.nz.

For information specifically on the Main North Road bus priority measures please contact:

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