

QUEENSPARK BUS PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATE December 2009

As part of the Christchurch City Council's Citywide Public Transport Priority Plan (August 2004), the Queenspark Bus Priority project was identified as one of the first three public transport priority projects to be developed.

The identified corridors in the Plan currently present significant delays and unreliability to the people who use public transport and these problems deter many more people from using "Metro" public transport. Evidence shows that removing these constraints, in association with the provision of high quality infrastructure and services, results in more people using public transport as their travel mode of choice. This also contributes to the Council's multi-modal transport objectives of reducing traffic growth and congestion, and improving road safety.

The Papanui Road / Main North Road bus priority corridor has been recently constructed and bus travel times have already improved significantly in the first month of operation. The average travel speeds at peak times along the corridor were 3-4 km/hr faster in November 2009 compared to November 2008 at peak times. In the morning peak period, the travel time range has improved by 4 minutes, while during the afternoon peak period, the travel time range has improved by 11 minutes.

The Queenspark Bus Priority project runs along Fitzgerald Avenue along Whitmore Street and Hills Road, right on to Shirley Road and then on to New Brighton Road finishing at the roundabout intersection at New Brighton Road / Bassett Street.

A scheme plan was put out for consultation in October – December 2007, and 163 submissions were received. All submissions were considered and a report was presented to the Hagley / Ferrymead, Shirley / Papanui, and Burwood / Pegasus Community Boards in May 2008, and was approved by Council to progress to detailed design, tender and construction at its meeting held on 12 June 2008.

As part of the Bus Priority project, the Council is also undertaking a programme of bus stop rationalisation through the removal and/or relocation of existing bus stops along Gloucester Street, Fitzgerald Avenue, Hills Road & Shirley Road, Bassett Street & New Brighton Road, Bower Avenue, Queenspark Drive, and Broadhaven Avenue.

The detailed design has been completed, and the tender for the work has been advertised for a construction contractor. The preferred contractor will be appointed prior to Christmas 2009, and it is anticipated that construction along the corridor will commence in January 2010. The construction phase is expected to take approximately three months to be completed.

The bus priority measures to be implemented along the corridor include:

- full-time and part-time bus lanes, with associated signage and road markings
- bus signals shown as a white “B” light at intersections (i.e. Marshlands Road / Shirley Road Intersection)
- pedestrian crossings with traffic lights (i.e. Outside Burwood School on New Brighton Road)
- improved bus stop facilities
- improved cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings
- changes to parking arrangements
- additional Give Way controls on side streets (i.e. Gresford Street, Guild Street, Hendon Street, Warden Street)

If you would like a copy of the design plans please contact the number below. A Start Work notice will be delivered to all properties along the corridor prior to any physical works commencing by the appointed contractor.

Should you have any queries in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact the Christchurch City Council Call Centre on (03) 941 8999 or check out the website www.buspriority.co.nz for further information.

cc: Hagley / Ferrymead Community Board
Shirley / Papanui Community Board
Burwood/ Pegasus Community Board