

## Living Streets Otautahi/Christchurch Submission on

### Annex Road, Birmingham Drive, Wrights Road and Matipo Street Proposed Upgrade

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Living Streets appreciates the improvements to active transport options reflected in this plan. We wish to take this opportunity to thank planners for introducing

- [ a new, signalised pedestrian crossing with a central island as a waiting area at Annex and Blenheim Road intersection
- [ the dedicated pedestrians and cyclists traffic signals at Annex and Lunns Road intersection, providing a foot path (where currently there is none) on Annex road
- [ the foot path improvements on Birmingham Road
- [ the replacement of the Wrights Road /Birmingham Drive roundabout with lights
- [ for the provision of a pedestrian refuges on Birmingham Drive, Matipo Street and Wrights Road. Please note that the plans specify the latter as being at 114 Wrights Road, well placed outside the Business Park, but the drawn plans have it placed between 116 and 118.

All these infrastructure improvements will greatly enhance the pedestrian journey with regard to safety, convenience and comfort. This area serves many businesses and work places, including Hillmorton Hospital, situated outside of scope on Annex Road South, and will offer commuters a genuine alternative to driving on these busy roads.

Living Streets advocates on behalf of many people who, for many reasons, are unable to drive or cycle. Walking is their main form of transport -often in conjunction with using public transport. Therefore we continue to recommend that all kerb cut downs and pavement surfaces be easily manageable for people with mobility impairments and that planners consult with the Blind Foundation to ensure all crossing points have approved tactile paver placement. We also are concerned about the health of the general population, about congestion, pollution and road safety and want to see pedestrian facilities that are attractive for *everyone* to use in order to make short journeys that otherwise may be more attractive to go by car.

We offer two recommendations:

- [ That there is clear signage/delineation on the shared path on the south west side of Annex Road to avoid conflict between people on bikes and the more vulnerable pedestrians. The latter may have visual and/or auditory impairment which may not be obvious to cyclists.
- [ that there be signage at Annex Road North of the Railway crossing to remind bus users to keep the shared path clear and that signage and/or a raised

platform at the Annex/Blenheim Road intersection be applied to discourage vehicular transport from stopping at crossing points.

Living Streets continues to want to be involved with transport upgrades and appreciates the opportunity to remind planners of the needs of pedestrians. It is very encouraging to see that this plan has taken pedestrian needs seriously. Thank you.