



**Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa on
Cobham Drive footpath improvements, TR 30-17**

Contact person: **Ellen Blake**
Email: **wellington@livingstreets.org.nz**
Phone: **021 106 7139**
Date: **4 April 2017**

Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the committee for this opportunity to submit on proposals for Cobham Drive footpath improvements.

Living Streets support the proposal to separate pedestrians from all vehicle users by providing a separated footpath. We recommend that this is designed so that it is physically separate from the cycle path to ensure it remains pedestrian only. The level of service for pedestrians is not stated. The traffic resolution should refer to a 'footpath' rather than a pedestrian track which has no legal meaning.

To ensure that pedestrians have a safe and pleasant walk this clear separation needs to continue all the way into Miramar, and at the western end of Evans Bay.

The footpath width is narrow at only 2 metres considering there is already a mix of users from runners to strollers. We recommend siting all furniture and landscaping off the footpath so it does not become blocked.

Similarly we recommend providing bike parking near to the bike path at points where cyclists might stop to prevent them blocking the footpath or leaning bikes on the seats.

The footpath surface needs to be good for walking and not too hard (i.e not concrete)– the artist proof has some odd wooden sections that, as on the waterfront, do not make a good walking surface and are slippery in the wet and can become pitted. We recommend including visual high contrast or tactile markers to ensure it is accessible for a wide range of people, and indicating clearly that it is a pedestrian facility, not for cyclists. We recommend providing a better surface for walking.

Safe crossings of Cobham Drive are needed particularly as a separated footpath is likely to encourage more people to walk here. There are already many informal crossing points as desire lines show, and proper safe crossing is needed at least near Troy St.

Living Streets recommends the removal of the slip lanes/free turns at the only current crossing on Evans Bay Road, and supports the completion of the pedestrian crossing connections all the way to the footpath (including extending the crossing over the cycle lane).

Reducing the speed limit on Cobham Drive, a short section of road, is also recommended to improve safety for all users.

We recommend that the bus stop changes (see <http://transportprojects.org.nz/assets/Documents/TR-30-17-Cobham-Dr-Final.pdf>) be withdrawn because the consultation information is deficient and it is unclear what is proposed. The location of all three bus stops is unclear. If bus stops are proposed to be closed, we recommend that passengers be consulted specifically and directly rather than the proposal being hidden in a resolution that appears to have no significance for buses or their passengers.

1. Cobham Drive Bus Stop – At All Times North side, commencing 218.5 metres north of its intersection with Troy Street and extending in an easterly direction following the northern kerblines for 12 metres. [Comment - from its Troy St intersection, Cobham Drive runs approximately north-west and east, not north. 218.5 m north of that intersection would be in the sea.]

2. Cobham Drive Bus Stop – At All Times South side, commencing 292 metres south of its intersection with Calabar Road and extending in a westerly direction following the southern kerblines for 12 metres. [Comment - from its Calabar Rd intersection, Cobham Drive runs approximately west and north, not south. 292 m south of that intersection is along Calabar Rd, not Cobham Drive.]

3. Cobham Drive Bus Stop – At All Times West side, commencing 471 metres south of its intersection with Miramar Avenue and extending in a southerly direction following the western kerblines for 12 metres. [Comment - at the point 471 m from Miramar Avenue (i.e. beyond the Calabar Rd intersection) Cobham Drive runs approximately east-west, so it doesn't have a "west side".]

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities

- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz