

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

PO Box 25-297

CHCH 8144

livingstreets.canterbury@gmail.com

Ph: 377 3316

30th October 2009

RE: Proposed Madras Street (Moorhouse to Cashel) Street Renewal Project

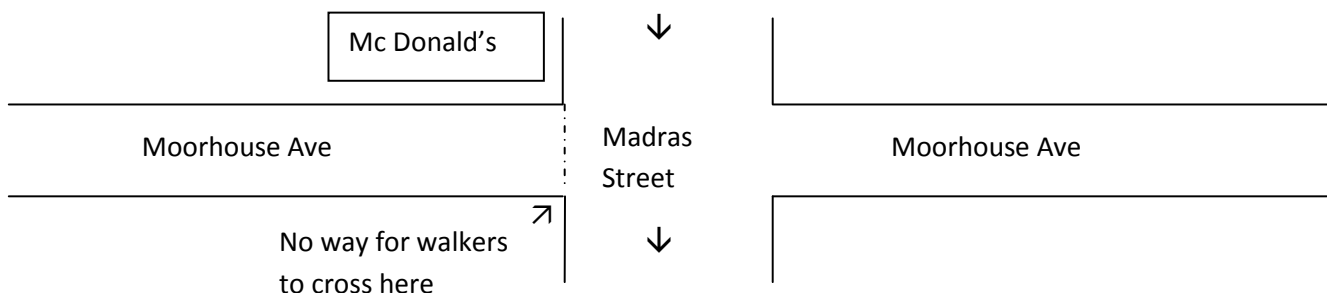
Living Streets Canterbury (Living Streets) under the umbrella of Living Streets Aotearoa works towards the goal of more people walking more often. Walking experts believe good design and planning of public space has a major impact on the number of walkers and the frequency with which they walk. We value opportunities to share our expertise in the area of walking as a way of attaining the best possible outcomes for those who currently walk as well as encouraging more people to walk.

We are pleased to see the major improvements proposed in the plans out for consultation, and generally support these with some suggested improvements. We believe many of the improvements increase pedestrian safety through measures such as the signalised crossing between the supermarket and food court area and CPIT, which has been a major issue for some time.

Suggested Improvements to current proposed plan

1. Signalised crossing for across Moorhouse Avenue on East side of Madras Street

While Moorhouse Ave is not part of this project a major problem exists for pedestrians (and with the proposed contra flow lane-cyclists also) because there is no signalised crossing in the following location (see below). A basic tenant of good design is that while a project has boundaries it is critical to take into account how proposed changes impact on and are impacted by, adjacent areas. Without a signalised crossing, pedestrians walking south need to detour across Madras Street (east to west), across Moorhouse Avenue (north to south), and then across Madras Street (west to east); and the reverse circumvent coming from the South. This circumvent is an unacceptable delay. This is a major network permeability, connectivity, and continuity issue. If it is not addressed the “shared path” will be under-utilised.



2. Boulevard style shared area

We propose a boulevard style pathway for pedestrians and cyclists along Madras Street outside Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology from Moorhouse Avenue to St Asaph Street. While this involves a departure from the proposed plan (including the loss of an additional 23 car parks along this section of Madras Street) as a walking advocacy group we promote the best possible provision for pedestrians.

The relatively new Matai St West shared path with its modal separation using a drop kerb looks to be from the plans we have 5.9m in width. The proposed Madras Street plans are 3.5m with a 1.0m safety zone, totalling 4.5m in width. Taking further parking as we propose above adds an additional 2.0m making a total width of 6.5m; which is enough for separating pedestrians from cyclists using a drop kerb type of facility.

Potential conflict areas where the pedestrian must cross the cycle area to reach their destination such as at signalised crossings and entrances/exits to CPIT facilities need to be clearly defined with good sight lines (perhaps signage advising care). The Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) has advised that they work with a lot of students who bus and walk to the polytechnic and do not have the vision (and some the hearing) to safely avoid cyclists who have right of way on a marked section of the footpath so thought needs to be put into this issue.

Due to the nature of the changes we propose the boulevard concept needs to be designed properly so it is aesthetically pleasing and practical for the two modes, including people with impairments.

Some of our reasoning's behind the creation of such a boulevard include:

- More space to enable modal separation (including a physical separation using a drop kerb) (see attached photo of Matai Street West)
- Greater integration of the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) with its surrounding area. Currently the CPIT feels closed off from its community and greater connectivity creates a better and safer community environment. We need to showcase our important academic institutions thus enhancing the potential economic benefits of bringing more students into this area.

3. Slip lane from Moorhouse Avenue into Madras Street

We want to ensure the slip lane from Moorhouse Avenue into Madras Street clearly gives priority for pedestrians (perhaps through signage and road markings prior to the crossing point) and good straight line travel.

4. Remove minor exit/entrance from Supermarket/food court area

We propose removing the exit for traffic flowing into Madras Street from the minor "driveway" in the supermarket/food court area just before Rope Street. This removes an incoming flow of traffic that pedestrians currently contend with. Our rationale is that we believe the proposed signalised pedestrian crossing may mean some motorists from the supermarket/food court area use the minor Madras Street exit/entrance to avoid the new signalised crossing. We wish to avoid creating a "rat run" thus shifting the problem.

5. “Barnes Dance” for intersection on corner of Madras, High, and St Asaph Streets.

Trudy Jones (CCC – Transport Planner Walking and Cycling) has done some exploration work on the feasibility of a “barnes dance” (exclusive pedestrian phase) at the intersection of Madras, High, and St Asaph Streets. Living Streets supports a “barnes dance” as currently these are all busy stretches of road with high numbers of pedestrians wishing to cross. A “barnes dance” improves safety for pedestrians as it enables them to cross quicker, this will hopefully encourage more people to wait for the signalised crossing phase.

We wish to speak to our submission at the hearings to be held during the week of 23rd November 2009

This submission is on behalf of Living Streets Canterbury

This submission refers to the Proposed Madras Street (Moorhouse to Cashel) Street Renewal Project

My name is: Cindy Carmichael

Organisational name: Living Streets Canterbury

Organisational role: Co-Convenor

Contact address: PO Box 25-297, Christchurch 8144

Phone: 377 3316 (same phone for day or evening)

Email: livingstreets.canterbury@gmail.com

Date: 30th October 2009