

# Living Streets Aotearoa



## Submission to Wellington City Council on Oriental Bay cycleway proposals

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### Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the committee for this opportunity to submit on one of the many cycleway proposals. Living Streets Aotearoa has actively participated in all the workshops for the cycleway projects. This has occasionally resulted in proposals that improve pedestrian amenity but as in this case the public proposals do not match the workshop discussions.

Living Streets supports quality cycleways on busy streets with slower speeds on all other streets to make them safer for all users. The outcome we seek is a pleasant walking environment on dedicated pedestrian-only footpaths with well-designed public spaces. This will encourage people to walk more often, including children and older people, with footpaths that meet a good standard so as to be accessible to all.

However the proposed two options do not match discussions at the 6 workshops and do not fairly reflect the preferred options of the workshop. Shared paths were explicitly rejected as an option. The current arrangement of the footpath being 'shared' has not worked well and has led to injuries and unpleasant walking. Any improvement must move away from this second-rate infrastructure model.

The cheapest option of retaining the existing footpath kerb has not been included and should be. A separate cycleway would then fit next to the footpath. Angle parking should be removed and the road narrowed (with or without the painted median). The workshop identified this as a feasible option.

The accompanying web video for this proposal suggests that the cycleway will continue all along Oriental Parade (as it should) but this is not part of the proposed options. It is therefore misleading.

Living Streets supports retaining the existing (old) footpath for pedestrians only. We support a new quality cycleway adjacent to the footpath at a different level. Access to buses and crossings must provide a quality safe access for pedestrians. Neither of the options meets these objectives.

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](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz)