

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

Submission to Wellington City Council on Ohiro Road transport improvement proposals

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Living Streets Aotearoa is the biggest supporter of sustainable transport options being improved for Wellington. We support the WCC adoption of the transport hierarchy with pedestrians at the top, and bikes and buses as the next priorities.

Good design requires that pedestrians have improved safe, convenient and pleasant connections throughout the city. Therefore we fully support this move to improve the transport environment of Ohiro Road.

Ohiro Road has for many years been a footpath-parking hotspot with inadequate enforcement. This means the footpath is frequently blocked and pedestrians must find a route around the vehicles. Any new proposals should start by improving this poor, unsafe walking environment yet the proposals seem to focus on providing bicycle space and residential parking.

This connector road is the main route to the landfill and has many large vehicles using this space, and there is footpath on one side of the road only. This makes it more important to provide safe travel for the many pedestrians in this area, particularly school children.

The design detail in the traffic resolutions does not provide sufficient detail to assess the proposals fully particularly on footpath widths.

Two key points are:

1 A standard width footpath along the entire road is required - I note 2.1 metres footpath width is used in many places and this should be provided along the entire road. A 1.2m - 1.4m width as proposed in several places is not acceptable and would not be wide enough for a person using a service dog or for a caregiver holding a child's hand to use safely. I have seen both of these types of pedestrian using this footpath.

2 Footpath should be provided along the property boundary and not separated from it by parked cars as proposed around numbers 421-449 Ohiro Road. It is preferable to move the kerb to achieve proper safe separation between vehicles and pedestrians at this point. Otherwise, a very clear marking for parked vehicles at the kerb with adequate enforcement would be required.

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.