

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa to Wellington City Council on Hataitai intersection improvements

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Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the committee for this opportunity to submit on the proposal to improve the Hataitai Road – Waitoa Road intersection. We appreciate the efforts undertaken by staff to consider safety improvements and to present their analysis.

We would like to see more analysis based on the Urban Growth Plan hierarchy of the benefits of this proposal, starting with pedestrians, and including public transport. A clear vision of what is required at this intersection would be a useful start.

Replacement of zebra crossings with traffic light controlled crossings will reduce the level of service for pedestrians by increasing the time required to cross these roads. Barnes Dance crossings provide the highest safety level for pedestrians, as all vehicles must stop during this phase.

This is on the key East-West Spine bus route 2, with at least 20 buses an hour through the intersection off peak (many more in the peak, on eight separate routes), outbound buses turning right from Waitoa Road into Moxham Ave. This important aspect appears not to have been thoroughly considered, nor the requirement for passengers (and other pedestrians) to cross the roads to board, alight, or make connections at the adjacent busy bus stops and the impact the parallel cross proposal will have on these movements. The safety risk to people hurrying to cross roads to catch buses is not mentioned: crossing two roads here (as many prospective passengers will have to do) may mean a wait of more than a couple of minutes, encouraging the taking of risks in order not to miss the bus.

Bus reliability on the spine is also important, and consideration needs to be given to giving buses priority over other traffic at this intersection.

We also note that trial infrastructure can be used to test an intersection design at little cost, eg use of temporary bollards or planter boxes.

A clear outcome for this intersection including mode priority is needed, with the design reflecting that outcome.

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