

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Northwood Residents Association (Mr Clive Smith - 77268)
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Public Transport Options

Public Transport is one of the programmes in the Transport and Urban Development portfolio. For the first year of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28 we are proposing changes to the Public Transport programme as outlined in the **Consultation Document**.(on page 14)

To make comment on the Public Transport proposed changes please complete the selection panel below.

To make comment on the the whole Transport and Urban Development portfolio, please use the tab on the left.

Please review the options in the Consultation Document and indicate which option you support: Option 4 – none of the above. (Please provide comment/ideas for an alternative solution)

Public Transport Comments

Please provide any comments.

Option 4 has been provided as NRA has no collective opinion.

However, we submit the following in relation to the Bus routes that serve our area:

LONG TERM PLAN 2018-28 ATTACHMENT TO SUBMISSION FROM NORTHWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 2. Public Transport Options The Northwood Residents Association does not support Options 1, 2 or 3 – all of which propose the removal of the two bus routes that travel through Northwood (Route 107 Styx Mill to Northlands, and Route 108 Casebrook to Northlands). Background Prior to the

2010/11 earthquakes, both Northwood bus routes travelled into the city, one direct via the Main North Road, and the other via neighbouring suburbs to join the Main North Road at Northcote. The routes were well-supported, particularly at peak travel times, by people working in the city and students. Following the earthquakes, people's travel patterns changed and the Northwood routes were altered to meander through adjacent suburbs, before ending at Northlands, meaning those who wanted to travel into the city have to change buses at Northlands. This change in routes and the lay-over at Northlands added considerable time to the journey and often meant waiting for long periods in the cold/wet weather. The later installation of the improved bus stop area at Northlands provided some shelter. Patronage fell at this time because of changed employment patterns post-earthquake and the longer travel times on the changed routes. The bus routes would have been supported more if there was a direct route from Northwood to the city via the Main North Road. For example, a direct route would see students at the schools in Merivale take a 20 minute journey from Northwood, whereas with the route travelling through adjacent suburbs and having to change buses at Northlands the travel time is at least twice that, often more.

Current Situation The wider Northwood area has upwards of 1000 homes. Our diverse community consists of a wide variety of ages and ethnicities. The main bus users are students who use the buses to travel to/from the schools on the Main North Road / Papanui Road (including St Josephs, St Bedes, Papanui, St Andrews, St Margarets, Rangī Ruru) and also ARA, as well as elderly residents (including those who live in the Northwood Villas retirement village) who use the buses to travel to Northlands and on to the city. One of the routes also provides valuable access for families and tourists to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve.

ECan's Proposal The proposal to remove Routes 107 and 108 would see our residents have to walk to the Main North Road to catch the Blue Line buses. For some residents this walk would be almost 2km – an impossible ask for the elderly or disabled (perhaps carrying shopping), and unpleasant and perhaps unsafe for students and those going to/from work in the winter weather with dark early mornings/evenings. Students and the elderly having to cross the Main North Road to catch the city-bound Blue Line bus poses a huge safety issue. The intersection of Main North Road, Northwood

Boulevard and Radcliffe Road is extremely busy and has a history of accidents and near-misses between turning vehicles and pedestrians. (Northwood Residents Association has

brought this to the attention of the Christchurch City Council and NZTA on a number of occasions.)

Suggested Solution We appreciate that Routes 107 and 108 are unsustainable under present arrangements, and note Environment Canterbury's passenger numbers and fare subsidy calculations. We would however suggest that for environmental, traffic congestion and safety reasons, some city bus routes need to be subsidised more than others. To enable our community to continue to have reasonable and practical access to a bus service, we would suggest that there be just one route in/out of Northwood, that it be less frequent outside of the peak times when people are travelling to/from work and school, and that small buses be used at all times (both routes are currently served by a mix of small and large buses).