

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Briar Cook (77673)
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Transport and Urban Development Support/Oppose

See page 13 of the Consultation Document.

Please select one of the following: I generally disagree with the activity proposed for Transport and Urban Development.

Transport and Urban Development Comments

Please provide any comments

To whom it May Concern,

My daughter (15) is a bus user, who struggles with the transport system on a weekly basis. Therefore, I am amazed to read the "Public Transport" (page 14) section of the Consultation Booklet which does not address any of the core difficulties AT ALL.

By all means, go ahead and figure out how the current system is to be paid for. However, without addressing some of the core issues *at all*, the Christchurch Public Transport System will continue to cater only for those that have no other transport choice.

For me, I fully support the *idea* of public transport. In fact, before the Feb 11 Earthquake I had chosen to be car-free for a number of months, living in the central city, using buses and my bicycle. In my opinion, the reason patronage has not returned to pre quake numbers is that the system has not returned to prequake efficiency. For example:

1. We live in South New Brighton. That means apart from a trip to Brighton, or The Palms, my daughter is using an average of three buses (two fares) to reach most of her destinations. Even at youth rates

it costs roughly the same amount for her to bus to and from school, as it does for me to drive her. The difference is that driving takes 12 minutes, busing and walking an hour.

2. Buses do not synchronise their schedules at New Brighton, often requiring a lengthy wait for a transfer. Before daylight and after dark, this feels unsafe for her and her friends. By dark, I mean after 5pm in winter.

3. Buses are noisy. Along with the ubiquitous radio, ill mannered behaviour and feet on empty seats bullying is now normal. Drivers cannot be expected to note and monitor all instances. My daughter has found a considerable level of comfort returned with the purchase of some fairly expensive noise-cancelling headphones.

4. On top of the above issues, at the end of the day, buses are dirty and smell bad. They add another level of endurance to the end of a tiring day. I pick her up from school for this reason.

So, this is the experience of one young person that nevertheless enjoys the independence that busing allows her. In August she will turn 16. That day, she intends to sit her learners driving test, with the aim of making busing in Christchurch a thing of the past.

I call Christchurch "The L.A. of New Zealand" on account of the fact that it is virtually impossible to live well here without a car. Your proposal offers nothing but financial increases. Our system will therefore continue to cater for visitors and those who cannot afford a car. Its probably too late, however please consider the possibility of addressing the above points. Synchronised services and clean pleasant buses seem normal in other centers. Why not here?

Thanks,

Briar Cook