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My submission:

Regarding buses near(ish) to where I live in the nearest useful
buses to me are either around Northlands Mall, or else on Harewood Road. The 107 to Styx Mill is hard to get to, and only useful if I want to go to Northwood shopping centre, and it's easier to get the No 1 bus to there, as there are fewer roads to cross. Thus, I have a 15 min (or more) walk to the Orbiter and other buses on Harewood Rd, or a 20 min walk to Northlands Mall, or a 25 min walk to Bishopdale centre.

There is a huge shopping centre recently built at Langdons Link, and also a number of other shops and services, including the WINZ office, all on Langdons Road, but not a single bus nearby, despite this being a low-socioeconomic area. Consequently people with little income and no car are left with no choice but to take their shopping home in a stolen/borrowed shopping trolley, which is then discarded on the footpaths. I am certain that the shops providing these trolleys would be delighted to have more buses servicing the area. And those who work in these shops would also be grateful to have an alternative way of getting to work. In addition, around this area there are approximately 7 aged care residential homes, housing thousands of older people, many of whom can no longer drive.

I believe that this area isn't the only one in a low socioeconomic area that is poorly serviced by buses. When planning bus routes, care should be taken to look at matching such areas with sensible coverage of buses. Also, all buses should be accessible to the elderly and disabled, having plenty of room for walking frames and wheelchairs. Whatever makes buses more accessible to these people is also appreciated by everyone else.

Buses & trains would be used more if there was provision for free park-and-ride for bikes and cars at strategic centres, the bikes being either storable in lockers or at racks that are made secure by surveillance. Buses that take bikes on the front are also useful in this respect, but I don't think they accommodate electric scooters, which is another option for saving the environment for many people. And lastly, I will rarely look at catching a bus that has a frequency of less than every 20 min, as it is too long to wait standing around in the sun, wind or rain.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit on this topic. I look forward to being served by a closer bus before I am too old to walk to the shop!

Kind regards,
Kay McKenzie



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