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Submission on the Proposed Extension of the City Tramway

Submission for: Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga

Submitted by: Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd

Ngāi Tūāhuriri does not oppose the proposed extended City Tramway route but recommends the Council take into account the comments below.

In terms of the Colombo Street to Cathedral Square part of the route, option 1 (use of the north-bound traffic lane) seems to be the better solution, as it avoids affecting pedestrian access and underground services to the extent of option 2.

Construction of the proposed tram route

The proposed new tramway route of Oxford, Cashell, Manchester, High and Colombo streets, looping around the eastern end of Cathedral Square to join the existing route, is unlikely to result in adverse effects on Ngāi Tahu cultural values or sites of significance. The proposed route follows an already intensely developed city area and it is therefore unlikely that construction of the tramway would adversely affect Ngāi Tahu cultural values.

However, it is expected that precautions be taken during the construction of the tramway and any associated excavations or earthworks by adhering to a standard archaeological Accidental Discovery Protocol with the Historic Places Trust.

The Historic Places Act 1993 makes it unlawful to destroy, damage or modify an archaeological site without the prior authority of the Trust. If evidence of a previously unknown site is found during earthworks, the work must stop and the Trust contacted for advice on how to proceed. Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga should also be contacted.

Opportunity to include a Ngāi Tahu dimension in the tramway visitor experience

The tramway route passes close to areas of historic and cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu that bring opportunities to add a Ngāi Tahu dimension to the City Tramway visitor experience.

The Christchurch Visitor Strategy 2007-2017 promotes opportunities for Ngāi Tahu's cultural identity and heritage to become an integral part of the visitor experience of Christchurch. Within the strategy objectives are adopted to:

Enhance the visitor experience of our unique natural environment, culture and histories.
(Objective 1.2, p.9).

To this end Christchurch City Council has committed to “work with Ngāi Tahu as a key partner, to promote and protect Ngāi Tahu culture and identity, ensure Ngāi Tahu culture is visible and that authentic information is available to visitors and the Christchurch community”.

The City Tramway is a key visitor and tourism service within Christchurch City’s Cultural Precinct. The proposed extended tram route would offer an expanded tourism experience, which has the potential to attract increased users to a better-value extended trip (assuming the cost of the trip doesn’t increase accordingly). It also has the potential to enhance the visibility of Ngāi Tahu history and culture in relation to the City centre area.

The attractions along the new route are cited as the Oxford Terrace Strip and views of the Avon River, the Bridge of Remembrance plus various retail outlets in City Mall and Colombo Streets. The tramway route also passes a number of significant Ngāi Tahu historic and cultural sites however, that could inform the sightseeing commentary provided for passengers as part of the City Tramway experience.

The existing route along Armagh Street and its proposed extension along Oxford Terrace pass near where the large Waitaha pā of Puari was located along the Ōtākaro (Avon River) out to Bealey Avenue. The loop of the Ōtākaro that encompassed the pā was an important mahinga kai site both for Waitaha and later for Ngāi Tahu. Victoria Square, previously known as Market Square, has a number of significant associations for Ngāi Tahu. It was a place where many Ngāi Tūāhuriri people from Kaiapoi came to sell their produce on the banks of the Ōtākaro. Victoria Square is also the site of the poupou, commissioned as part of the 1990 commemorations of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Its carvings depict the mahinga kai and tūpuna of the Waitaha and Ngāi Tahu people.

These sites are examples of Ngāi Tahu history that could be woven into the City Tramway experience to reflect a Ngāi Tahu dimension of Ōtautahi (Christchurch City).

It is recommended that as part of the development of the proposed extended tramway route, the Christchurch City Council seek advice on the inclusion of Ngāi Tahu cultural history of city sites in the City Tramway visitor experience from Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Actions sought:

- a) That during construction of the City Tramway extension Christchurch City Council use a standard archaeological Accidental Discovery Protocol where in the event a previously unknown archaeological site, artifacts or remnants are found during excavations, work be stopped and the Historic Places Trust and Ngāi Tūāhuriri informed.
- b) That Christchurch City Council considers incorporating stories about Ngāi Tahu historic and culturally significant sites along the City Tramway route into the sightseeing commentary to

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ensure that there is a Ngāi Tahu dimension to the tramway visitor experience, and advice is sought from Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu on this.

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