



City Streets

Christchurch has a network of 1,479 km of roads, 139 bridges, associated kerbs, channels and footpaths, some 30,000 streetlights, around the same number of street signs and 140 km of cycle-ways.

Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$203.10 or slightly more than one quarter, is currently spent on maintaining the City's streets.

Service Options

There are ten areas of service to consider in determining what standard of City streets Christchurch people wish to pay for. These are:—

Carriageways

Currently six km of Christchurch roads have uneven areas smoothed and 90 km of roads are resurfaced every year, using a variety of materials. This accounts for \$28.10 of the average individual annual rates bill. Resurfacing only with chip-seal, rather than with a variety of materials, would reduce this sum to \$26.80. Increasing the annual quantity of smoothing of uneven roads to 15 km and improving the quality would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$32.30 every year. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would continue the current service using the best quality materials on busier roads, costing on average \$28.75 per year for each ratepayer.

Kerbs and Channels

Currently 27 km of old-style wide stormwater kerb and dish channels are replaced every year, with street enhancements, such as planting of street trees and slow street facilities, carried out

where possible as part of a 24 year programme to replace all these dish channels with flat channels. This accounts for \$78 of the average individual annual rates bill. Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* is to replace all kerbs and dish channels within 24 years on a graduated programme at 22km per annum for the first five years, thereafter at 28km per annum. This would cost ratepayers an average of \$63 each year. Cutting right back to a programme of maintenance only, with no street enhancement and a 120 year programme to replace dish channels would reduce this part of the average annual rates bill to \$39. Renewing at the faster rate of 29 km of kerbs and channels per annum and moving to a 22 year programme to replace all old-style dish would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$84 every year.

Footpaths

To maintain the City's footpaths in a reasonably safe condition they are currently resurfaced every 18 years, with some new footpaths constructed. This accounts for \$16 of the average individual annual rates bill. Reducing the resurfacing rate to every 22 years, with no new construction of paths, therefore reducing the overall quality of City footpaths, would cut this component of the rates bill to \$14 every year. Improving the standard and quality of paths by resurfacing every 16 years and constructing more new paths would increase this component of the average rates bill to \$18 every year.

Street Lighting

Streetlights are currently upgraded on main roads for safety reasons, while outdated light fittings and poles are replaced. This accounts for \$24.50 of the average individual annual rates bill. Cutting right back to upgrade no streetlights for either safety or replacement would cut this component of the rates bill to \$18.90

Service: Carriageways

Lowest possible:	\$26.80
Current Spend:	\$28.10
Premium:	\$32.30
Minimum acceptable:	\$28.75

Service: Kerbs and Channels

Lowest possible:	\$39
Current Spend:	\$78
Premium:	\$84
Minimum acceptable:	\$63

Service: Footpaths

Lowest possible:	\$14
Current Spend:	\$16
Premium:	\$18
Minimum acceptable:	\$16

Service: Street Lighting

Lowest possible:	\$18.90
Current Spend:	\$24.50
Premium:	\$33.50
Minimum acceptable:	\$24.50

every year. Upgrading lighting on all main roads, replacing all outdated fittings and upgrading fittings in streets with trees would increase this part of the average annual rates bill to \$33.30.

Undergrounding

At present electricity supply lines are progressively put underground in conjunction with major roadworks. This accounts for \$11.80 of the average individual annual rates bill. Cutting this programme, so that no more electricity supply cables would be put underground, would save this part of the average individual annual rates bill. Increasing the programme to put services underground with all major roadworks, through the whole of the central business district and other commercial areas and along all major routes would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on undergrounding to \$96.60 every year.

Road Markings and Signs

At present all roads are re-marked every nine to 18 months, signs are replaced every ten years and old style street nameplates replaced over a 12 year programme. This accounts for \$5 of the average individual annual rates bill. Marking the roads at the less frequent rate of every 12 to 18 months and replacing no road signs would cut this part of the average individual annual rates bill to \$3.40. Marking the roads at the more frequent rate of every six to 12 months, replacing road signs every five years and upgrading old style street nameplates over four years would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on road markings and signs to \$8.25 every year.

Traffic Signals

Christchurch has 144 intersections controlled by traffic signals. At present traffic lights are upgraded as funding allows. This accounts for \$4.60 of the average individual annual rates bill. Cutting all upgrading would reduce this figure to \$3.60. Increasing the rate of upgrading would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on traffic lights to \$5.30 every year.

Major Construction Works

At present \$16.90 of the average individual annual rates bill is spent on major construction works to improve or upgrade Christchurch roads, work typically including road widening and intersection improvements to reduce traffic delays. Reducing construction works would increase traffic delays in City streets but would cut the amount spent by the average ratepayer on improving major roads to \$8.45 every year. Increasing the amount of major improvement work would take this amount up to \$27.70.

Neighbourhood Improvement Works

At present \$6.80 of the average individual annual rates bill is spent on improving Christchurch's neighbourhood roads, those serving a particular suburb or location. This work typically includes slow street treatments, thresholds at intersections and road humps. In addition to projects which are carried out with major construction, 30 of these projects are currently undertaken every year. Reducing the programme of neighbourhood improvement so that these projects are only carried out in conjunction with major construction works would save this amount. Increasing the amount of work to include 45 neighbourhood projects per year would raise the amount spent by the average ratepayer on controlling traffic on suburban roads to \$10.20 every year.

Safety Works

Safety education and construction work focused on improving the safety of Christchurch's roading network, including new roundabouts and speed control measures, currently costs the average ratepayer around \$4.23 every year. Cutting the safety

Service: Undergrounding

Lowest possible: \$0

Current Spend: \$11.80

Premium: \$96.60

Minimum acceptable: \$11.80

Service: Road Markings and Signs

Lowest possible: \$3.40

Current Spend: \$5

Premium: \$8.25

Minimum acceptable: \$5

Service: Traffic Signals

Lowest possible: \$3.60

Current Spend: \$4.60

Premium: \$5.30

Minimum acceptable: \$4.60

Service: Major Construction Works

Lowest possible: \$8.45

Current Spend: \$16.90

Premium: \$23.70

Minimum acceptable: \$16.90

Service: Neighbourhood Improvement Works

Lowest possible: \$0

Current Spend: \$6.80

Premium: \$10.20

Minimum acceptable: \$6.80

Service: Safety works

Lowest possible: \$2.50

Current Spend: \$11.40

Premium: \$19.70

Minimum acceptable: \$11.40



education component of this work and increasing the threshold at which such safety focused construction work is carried out would reduce this figure to 28 cents. Funding more safety projects would increase the amount spent by the average ratepayer on improving the safety of the road network to \$5.30 every year.

Summary

Maintaining and enhancing Christchurch City streets currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$203.10** every year.

To provide a service at a lower standard, with all the possible savings identified, would cut this amount back to **\$116.65** after ten years.

To make all the improvements suggested would raise this amount to **\$331.55**.

To provide a service consistent with Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would cost **\$188.75**

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Summary of the costs of City Streets

Lowest Possible...	\$116.65
Current...	\$203.10
Premium...	\$331.55
Minimum acceptable service...	\$188.75

What do you think?

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- What do you regard as most important in keeping Christchurch streets safe and easy to use: street lighting, kerbs, footpaths and channels, resurfacing, road markings, putting services underground?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service in any of these areas? If so, what priorities are most important?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?
- Are you content that the present service at the present cost is about right?

Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's streets.

On average 1.1 million trips are made in motor vehicles on Christchurch roads every day, a rate that is growing at 4 per cent each year. Good roads are essential for the economic welfare of Christchurch and its people. Maintaining the balance between safety and efficiency, equity and the environment — between the requirements of motorists, pedestrians and residents, is the key to an effective urban road network.

Contact

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to City streets, please contact

Chris Kerr on

371 1671.