

15. LICHFIELD/TUAM STREET SWAP

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an information update on the Lichfield/Tuam Streets one-way swap project.

INFO SHOP AND MEETINGS

To date there have been very few people visit the Lichfield/Tuam Swap info shop at 179 Tuam Street. Typically there have been 0 to 5 people per hour. The shop is open for 1 hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week.

Meetings held at the info shop for interest groups other than property and business owners have also had low turnouts with numbers typically ranging from 0 to 5 people. The low turnouts may reflect the limit on peoples ability to make it to a meeting at a specific date and time. We have also had feedback that the invitations sent out may not have reached the appropriate people.

Some organisations have requested specific meetings. These include Transit NZ, Ballantynes, Road Transport Association, Environment Canterbury Councillors, Cathedral Square Stakeholders Group and Inner City Residents Groups. The meetings have all been held at the organisation's premises (with the exception of the Inner City Residents Group).

Four specific meetings with business and property owners were held (one at the info shop and three in the council chambers). Turnouts at these meetings ranged from 7 to approximately 70 people.

SUBMISSIONS

The project is currently in the public consultation phase which started in early June and finishes on the 16 August 2002. To date, approximately 400 hardcopy and electronic submissions have been received. Submissions have not been formally tallied but are showing an approximate split of 25% in favour of the swap and 75% against.

A brief inspection of the submissions show that the main issues being raised are:

- Support for the public transport and pedestrian enhancements.
- Concerns mainly about the effects on Tuam Street businesses, but also Lichfield and High Street businesses.
- Concerns about the 'cul de sacing' of Oxford Terrace and Lichfield Street for general traffic and access to the parking buildings.
- Concerns that this project is a result of the problems associated with the location of the bus exchange. There is a perception that Council introduced the bus exchange quickly with limited planning and consultation. Tuam Street businesses perceive that the Council is trying to correct its own problems at their expense.

Approximately 40 submitters to date, have indicated they wish to personally present their submission to the Committee. The dates for the presentations are the 27, 28, and 29 of August 2002.

A market research company has been briefed to undertake a formal analysis of submissions with a report expected in early October 2002.

TRAFFIC SIMULATION MODEL

A traffic engineering consultancy has been briefed to develop a traffic simulation model of the Lichfield, Tuam and St Asaph Streets area. Traffic simulation models, model traffic flows vehicle by vehicle and are leading edge technology. This model will allow the robustness of the proposed swap to be confirmed and also allow some future options to be tested if required. Modelling undertaken by Council staff to date has used industry standard techniques that have some limitations in central city areas where there are short block lengths and traffic queue length issues. A report on the modelling work is due around late October or early November 2002.

SURVEYS

A market research company is being briefed to undertake a set of surveys to help better identify the effects of the proposed swap outside the transport system. Three business representatives and an economist have been invited onto a working party that will determine the final shape and form of the surveys. The proposed surveys are:

- (1) Road user survey – This survey will attempt to determine road users attitude to the road environment in the area by asking questions such as:
 - Why road users are using Lichfield Street,
 - Whether they like using the street,
 - What they think about the Colombo/Lichfield intersection,
 - Whether they prefer one way or two way streets.
- (2) Business survey – This survey will attempt to determine:
 - What effects businesses believe the swap will have on their business,
 - Why they believe that is so,
 - What the magnitude of the effect could be.
- (3) Business customer survey – This survey will attempt to gauge customer reaction to the proposed swap and to what degree it will affect their decision to continue to visit businesses on Lichfield and Tuam Streets if the swap proceeds.
- (4) General public survey – A statistically robust sample survey of Christchurch's population will be undertaken to determine how many people know about the swap project and whether they do or do not support the project.

A report on the results of the surveys is due around the end of October 2002.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.