

## 8. AVON RIVER/OTAKARO BRIDGE LIGHTING

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The purpose of this report is to outline an order of priority of future lighting work on the central city bridges of Christchurch. The choice of bridge priority has been made with reference to the Lighting Strategy for the city centre.

### INTRODUCTION

An initiative, identified and promoted as part of the overall Central City Lighting Strategy by the Council and members of the general public, is now underway to light the bridges spanning the Avon River/Otakaro. The aim being to enhance the night-time image of the central city and extend the opportunity for night-time activities such as punting around the river. The first of these bridges to be illuminated will be the Hereford Street Bridge and work is currently being completed on the installation of the lighting fixtures and cabling.

### SELECTED CITY CENTRE LIGHTING STRATEGY AIMS

- .... to allow the **safe and enjoyable use of public spaces** beyond the hours of natural lighting and to manage and promote the central city as a night-time destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.
- To highlight and emphasise the qualities of heritage buildings and other buildings, bridges, places and objects of merit, prominence and importance in such a way so as to maintain their overall integrity both day and night.
- To emphasise important **visual** and **pedestrian linkages** through streetscapes and significant urban spaces.

### BRIDGE LIGHTING CONSIDERATIONS

- Lighting the bridges should reveal the form, details, colour and texture of the side façades to the viewer and highlight features of interest while temporarily hiding from view elements such as unattractive adjacent structures.
- Existing light fittings should be repaired and reinstated as a first step as this is relatively easy, low cost and can be done quickly.
- Cleaning and repainting should ideally occur prior to the installation of any new illumination scheme.
- A lighting colour scheme should be created for each structure to highlight the unique structural details and ornamentation although it may be of course that some bridges are best viewed in a single colour.
- The bridge abutments are often formed in different materials to the main span with different lighting requirements and they may be more susceptible to vandalism and erosion. They may benefit from protection in the form of shrubs and small trees in a zone on the bank directly in front of them.
- The riverbanks may in some cases be inappropriate locations for luminaries to light the bridges due to vandalism, dirt accumulation on transparent surfaces and maintenance problems. A possible alternative solution would be to mount lighting on new independent poles out of reach of vandals and in appropriate locations.

### CURRENT BRIDGE LIGHTING

New lighting work is nearly completed on the 1938 concrete Hereford Street Bridge. Existing lighting is already in place on the Bridge of Remembrance, Worcester Boulevard, and Victoria Square bridges. These three bridges are the most significant as they are all limited to pedestrians (apart from trams on Worcester Boulevard) and close to central city attractions. The current lighting of the Worcester Boulevard and the Victoria Square bridges is focussed on the ornate metal balustrades, with powerful white light fittings attached on the outside of the metalwork. These luminaries can cause problems with glare as the viewer approaches the bridge. Realignment of these fittings may help or the addition of some form of baffle or reflector to redirect the light more completely towards the balustrade.

## SUGGESTED ORDER OF PRIORITY OF FUTURE LIGHTING WORK ON CENTRAL CITY BRIDGES

Reasons for the proposed priorities are given within brackets

(Details of the individual bridge structures are given in Attachment A)

1. Worcester Boulevard (potential for viewing brickwork under bridge, important pedestrian link to Arts Centre and the new Art Gallery, route used by tourist trams, the existing lighting needs adjustment and enhancement).



2. Victoria Square (under bridge potential, important pedestrian link, existing lighting needs adjustment and enhancement).



## 8 Cont'd

3. Bridge Of Remembrance (potential for viewing brickwork under bridge, important pedestrian link, existing lighting to be re-evaluated in conjunction with City Mall upgrade).
4. Armagh Street (potential for viewing stone and brick under bridge, ornate ironwork balustrades, route used by tourist trams, close to Provincial Buildings).



5. Gloucester Street (potential for viewing ironwork under bridge, ornate ironwork balustrades, close to library and shops, close to Provincial Buildings).



6. Colombo Street (potential for viewing ironwork under bridge, important pedestrian link to Convention Centre and Town Hall and shops on Colombo Street).



## 8 Cont'd

7. Manchester Street (minimal structural interest but close to Rotunda and forms an important vehicle traffic gateway to the city centre).



8. Madras Street (minimal structural interest but forms the finishing point of the run of large poplar trees along the Avon River/Otakaro banks, also soon to be the site of the new fireman's sculpture and memorial).

### CONCLUSION

In order to succeed with the aim of bringing increased safe and enjoyable night-time activity within the central city sections of the Avon River/Otakaro, the initiative should proceed to the highest priority bridge. Public involvement could be encouraged through 'switching on' ceremonies and encouragement of active participation through public sponsorship.

### NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
<b>The Natural Step</b>			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	✓✓0*	
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	✓✓0*	
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	✓✓0*	
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step
<b>The People Step</b>			
P1	Basic needs met	✓✓0*	
P2	Full potential developed	✓✓0*	
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓✓0*	
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓✓0*	
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓✓0*	
<b>The Economic Step</b>			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓✓0*	
E2	Job rich local economy	✓✓0*	
E3	Financial sustainability	✓✓0*	

### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Avon River bridge lighting projects be prioritised as proposed and as funding allows.

**Chairman's  
Recommendation:**

1. That the Avon River bridge lighting projects be prioritised as per the staff recommendation and as funding allows.
2. The report be referred to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee for information and the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Unit be asked to advise of any issues affecting the bridge lighting schedule being in the order proposed, from a repairs and maintenance perspective.