

10. BLENHEIM ROAD DEVIATION

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Transport Planning Engineer, Paul Roberts DDI 371-1618
Corporate Plan Output: Road Network Planning	

The purpose of this report is to summarise the submissions made on the Council's proposed funding option for the Blenheim Road Deviation project.

INTRODUCTION

At its 14 December 2000 meeting, the Council committed itself to proceed with the Blenheim Road Deviation, subject to a number of contractual matters.

The Council also resolved that further public consultation be conducted to augment the consultation already undertaken for the current year's Financial Plan, giving full details of the now fully developed proposal and increased capital expenditure, by 15 January 2001. The consultation was to be in regard to the source of funds, rather than whether or not the project proceeds (as the resolution adopted effectively committed the Council to the project).

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions were invited through advertisement in the public notices of the Press and Star, from 23 December through to 13 January.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Only 26 submissions have been received, which is probably more a reflection of the submission period than a lack of interest in the project. As was advised at the meeting, the Christmas holiday period is not an ideal time to invite public input. It should be noted, however, that the period possible for submissions was essentially dictated by contractual obligations.

The comments made in the submissions may be summarised as follows. The submissions are tabled.

Overall View	No	Percentage
Object	20	77%
Support	3	12%
Neutral	3	12%
Total	26	100%

The 20 submissions opposing the project made a total of 94 detailed comments, classified as follows:

Detailed Comments on Objection	No
Object to increase in rates	15
Waste of Money/ Not needed/ No or insufficient problem to Solve	15
Insufficient time or information for consultation	11
Other priorities	9
Too much money/ Benefits do not justify cost	9
Adding burden to older/low income ratepayers	5
Should not circumvent normal Financial Plan process	6
Use Orion money	4
Yet another Council extravagance	3
Use Transfund Money	3
Rates money used to benefit private landowners	3
Benefits such as Hagley parking, city gateway or accident reduction could be achieved at lower cost	3
If it proceeds, other projects should be trimmed to reduce rates increase	2
Cheaper option is to upgrade existing bridge	2
Should not be funded without better consultation	3
Disbenefits for traffic flow to north	1
Total	94

The following submission was received from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board:

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board supports the construction of the Blenheim Road deviation, and would encourage the Council to work towards an early construction programme.

There are many benefits to be realised by this work proceeding, whilst the Board does recognise that it has not been programmed through the normal Annual Plan/Capital Works process. The questions raised about funding such a major work are noted, but there is an opportunity to fund it through borrowing, capital work substitution, or through other funds currently held. Monies have been set aside for the current overbridge strengthening, the acknowledged benefits to be gained for pedestrian/cycle users could be reflected in funds being made available from that [city streets] vote, as examples.

In terms of benefits gained, the Board believes that a commitment to this work, now, is visionary in its thinking; current benefits [as noted in the 26 October report to City Services Committee] will be enhanced by addressing these issues now, rather than reacting to them later.

Major benefactors will include cyclists, pedestrians, Hagley Park users, and the large number of vehicle users who currently access/exit the city through the Moorhouse/Deans Avenue/Blenheim Road configuration. Riccarton Road and Riccarton Avenue could also see a reduction in usage. With the known redevelopment that has been signalled to take place in this area, it is very opportune for the Council to be in a position to undertake this very desirable work.'

Recommendation: That the information be received.