


2. HILLS ROAD BUS BOARDER TRIAL – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TRIAL



General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Transport & Greenspace Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval to extend the Hills Road bus boarder trial for a further period of six months (ie until 16 April 2007) to align with the delivery of a report to Council recommending a proposal for the Queenspark bus priority route.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Hills Road bus boarder trial was approved to proceed to design and construction for a period of three months by the Council at its meeting held on 19 April 2007.
3. The trial commenced on Thursday 19 July 2007 and will continue under the current Council resolution until 19 October 2007.
4. Consultation is being carried out concurrently with the trial and the consultation period will continue until 26 October 2007.
5. The project team would like to extend the trial because at the moment the trial is operating successfully and therefore we would like to include it as an option in the overall Queenspark scheme. The Queenspark route proposal, including the outcome of consultation, is anticipated to be presented to the Council in early April 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. This project was funded from the Bus Priority Routes budget of \$120,000 for the 2006/07 financial year. There is also budget allocated in the 2007/08 financial year for the Queenspark bus priority route.
7. The cost associated with the removal of the Hills Road bus boarder trial infrastructure is approximately \$8,000. There is no cost associated with the retention of the Hills Road bus boarder trial for a further period of six months. The infrastructure is maintained under a one year maintenance contract, which is the standard maintenance period for roading projects.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

8. As above.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. There are no known legal implications for this project.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Aligns with the Bus Priority Routes Project of the Capital Works Programme, pg 85, Our Community Plan 2006-2016.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

12. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. This project is consistent with key regional and local Council strategies including the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Statement, Public Passenger Transport Strategy, Pedestrian Strategy, Parking Strategy, Cycling Strategy, Road Safety Strategy, Citywide Public Transport Priority Plan, Metro Strategy 2006-2016, and the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. Consultation has been undertaken as part of the trial and will continue until 26 October 2007.
16. Consultation leaflets, including a feedback form, have been delivered to all residents and businesses along Hills Road (ie between North Avon Road and Shirley Road/Warrington Street). A copy of the consultation leaflet has also been sent to all landowners of properties along this section of Hills Road, as well as key stakeholder groups, service centres and libraries throughout the city.
17. A launch was held at the St Albans/Shirley Club on Friday 20 July 2007, to which elected members, media and stakeholder group representatives were invited. The launch included a bus trip along Hills Road, including a stop to let passengers off at one of the two bus boarders, and was followed by a seminar on the bus priority project.
18. A display was presented in the Palms Mall in the week of 23 July 2007, including a visual display of the actual modelling of the Hills Road bus boarders on a screen, consultation leaflets and display boards. The display was staffed by project team members from both Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council during peak times in the morning and afternoon.
19. A display is also in place at the Shirley Service Centre for the duration of the trial period, which includes a computer terminal allowing the public to access the bus priority website for further information.
20. At the time of writing this report, the project team had received approximately 100 responses to the bus boarder trial through phone calls, leaflet feedback forms, Have Your Say submissions, and emails. There has also been a lot of interest in the trial from the media, through newspaper articles and talkback radio. The project manager has written an article for the Press Perspective page and held four live radio interviews to ensure that the facts about bus boarders is in the public arena.
21. The project team has also presented information on the bus boarder trial specifically at 20 seminars to date for interested and affected groups.
22. A report will be presented to the Council following the conclusion of the consultation period with the results and findings of the consultation responses received.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the extension of the Hills Road bus boarder trial for a further period of six months to align with the delivery of a report to the Council recommending a proposal for the Queenspark bus priority route.