

# Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I do not wish to make a personal submission at the hearings.

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**Your Submission:**

This submission is being written to address item number 31 on the Shirley Community Project Sheet, described as Saint Albans Street (Rutland-Trafalgar/bth) street upgrade. I am writing to support simply completing the curb and channel upgrade as this project was described in the 2003-04 Annual Plan.

Since that time CCC staff have recommended straightening and widening both Saint Albans Street and Courtney Place. This recommendation was met with resounding opposition from the community for safety, increased vehicle numbers and speed issues. This is a section of the street because of its proximity to 10 schools has a great deal of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The widening and straightening of the road would make many people consider their transport options and force them to choose vehicles only furthering the traffic congestion in the area. There are CCC sponsored walking school buses that use this area for getting children safely to and from school.

The proposal to change the configuration of the streets, when all that was discussed in the last annual plan was curb and gutter, is contrary to many of CCC's stated community outcomes in this first community plan. The outcomes to which it is contrary are:

"Our people participate in decision making and enjoy the rights and responsibilities of living in a democracy." In the two public meetings, I attended on this subject, I didn't feel as if I was participating in the decision making. The community was opposed to the proposal and Council staff continued to promote it full stop.

"Our city's urban form and infrastructure maximise safety and security for all people from crime, injury and hazards." If the proposal to widen and expand the street proceeds, I would not be comfortable with my children crossing the street to go and play at Saint Albans School park. The increased traffic and speed would be a real impediment to us leading healthy active lives that are free of auto dependence.

"Our people have appropriate housing and live in attractive and well designed neighbourhoods." Should the proposal proceed, my neighbourhood would neither be attractive nor well designed. It will be solely the product of automobile convenience. CCC spends a great deal of money annually on sending its staff to conferences about good urban design and liveable streets and promoting these programmes throughout the community. It is ashame that this good work is being abandoned on Saint Albans Street and Courtney Place. These are great urban streets with good examples of vernacular Christchurch architecture. Why should they lose all their character to solve a non existant traffic issue?

**Your Submission  
(Cont'd):**

I stand with my neighbours, Community Board Representatives Robin Booth, Yvonne Palmer and Anne Carroll, Councillors Megan Evans, Ingrid Stonhill and Norm Withers and the Saint Albans Residents Association in opposing the expansion and straightening of Saint Albans Street and Courtenay Place. I do support the construction of new curb and gutter, burial of power lines and the planting of more street trees and creating green buffers along the footpaths.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.