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Submissions on Council Plans for Solving Traffic Congestion - etc.

1. All buses must come out of Colombo Street, between Lichfield Street and Armagh Street. Alternative routes to be found - Manchester Street. No stopping/parking in Manchester Street in rush hours. Alternative centre city bus stop to be found e.g. increase use on internal central city bus station, Gloucester Street. *Do not have* central bus stations opposite each other in the same street.
2. No parking in Colombo Street at all between Lichfield and Armagh Streets.
3. OR Colombo Street to become a pedestrian mall, from Lichfield Street to Armagh Street. I was going to suggest a pedestrian mall just as far as the Cathedral, but this would disadvantage retailers whose shops are in the Gloucester Street/Armagh Street block.¹
4. Purchase old "Star" building in Gloucester Street for centre city bus stop and another parking building.
5. Return Lichfield Street to two-way traffic to allow buses to avoid Colombo Street. Hereford and Gloucester Streets to become one way, opposite each other, to allow for better traffic flow.

¹ Why have council permits been given to so many tourist shops in the area between Gloucester and Armagh Streets? There is little incentive for Christchurch people to shop in that area. Why are so many permits being issued to so many Asian restaurants? It is hard to find good "ordinary" restaurants in the middle of the city - and not everyone wants to eat Asian. Should there be an area that could become "Asiatown" like other cities have their "Chinatowns?"

6. **ALL TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY TO HAVE RIGHT-TURNING LIGHTS THAT GIVE A SENSIBLE PERIOD OF TIME FOR RIGHT-TURNING MOTORISTS TO GET ACROSS.** Part of the problem with the Papanui Rd/Victoria St crossing is that there are no right-turning lights. *Every* set of traffic lights should be a *complete* set.
7. No stopping/parking in Papanui Road from Bealey Ave to ?? 7.30 a.m. to 9.00, and 3.00 - 6.00. Install bus lanes.
8. Open Lichfield Street Car Park to a sensible hour to cater for diners etc at "The Strip" - one of the busiest eating areas in Christchurch.
9. Use some of the air space above city buildings for more car parks.
10. Install well-lit bus shelters at all bus stops. Pay for these by selling advertising.
11. Bus stop signs are difficult to make out if one is new to the district. They need to be bigger and bolder.
12. If one is a newcomer to using the buses, the bus stop signs are confusing - Metro, MetroStar etc???? Can't all buses stop at the same stops? Timetables at all bus stops.
13. Ensure that all bus stops have a piece of proper footpath from which to get into the bus or to alight from the bus e.g. bus stop at end of Aidensfield Road on Halswell Road - just rough side of road, and the steps on buses that don't "kneel" is too high for short or elderly people.

I have literally fallen into a bus at that stop. I was laden with "homework" from my school, and the bags flew all over the place. There was no move from the bus driver to help me. As soon as I was standing again, and moving to a vacant seat, the bus started again with a strong jerk, and I was cannoned into the side of a seat. I hurt both my ankle and my hip, and ACC had to pay for my GP treatment. I know that I should have complained at the time, but just did not get around to it.

14. For those with vision problems, it is much easier to read METRO on the front of an oncoming bus at the Colombo St. bus centre than it is to read the actual destination and number. Surely destination and route number are more important than the name of the actual system?
15. There is a real shambles at rush hour times in the Colombo Street bus station between Ballantynes and the Food Court. Because the buses have to pull into line, they are often nowhere near their potential passengers. These people have to fight their way along the road to get to a bus (where the destination is difficult to read in the first place) through people waiting for other buses, and people just walking along the street.
16. PLEASE install proper air conditioning systems in all of the buses. Even having the very tiny windows open is not enough in the rush hour. It is most uncomfortable - very hot and sticky - and airless!

I do *not* wish to be present when these submissions are made. I believe that my submissions are clear enough to speak for themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to make them.



S. Couper