

12. CATHEDRAL SQUARE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

RR 8577

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Central City Committee on progress on the Cathedral Square Redevelopment project.

1. GENERAL

1.1 Finance

At the Council meeting on 31 August 1998 the Major Projects Co-ordinator was requested to provide an updated financial report to the 14 September 1998 Strategy and Resources Committee. This report will provide as much updated information as possible, following last months Cost Review Report to the Central City Committee on 6 August 1998. Further detail will be available in November 1998 following the receipt of tenders for the Stage 4 groundworks and lighting and will be reported at that time.

Shipston Davies Ltd (Construction Cost Management Consultants) have been engaged by City Design and are responsible for the financial control and monitoring on the project. They will assist the Project Manager in this regard.

1.2 Bus Operation

Project team members (including the Canterbury Regional Council and bus company representatives) have been meeting every two to three weeks to discuss ways of improving current bus operations and to resolve issues that might have been brought to the above group's attention through concerned owners/occupiers, bus patrons etc. As a result of these meetings:

- bus shelters are being provided on Gloucester Street together with footpath widening, improved lighting, rubbish bins and other improvements. This is programmed to be completed in October 1998.
- bus operators will limit waiting times in the Square by using layover spaces and if they have to wait for longer than 2-3 minutes they should turn off their engines.
- the Parking Unit will enforce parking restrictions in the northwest quadrant more vigorously.
- traffic control at intersections will be improved for bus movements.

1.3 Square Cleanliness

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Project team members have been meeting to discuss and resolve issues of cleanliness in the Square. As a result of these meetings:

- rubbish bins are cleared at least daily
- rubbish bins are cleaned at least weekly
- granite paving is washed weekly
- litter inspectors arrange spot cleaning as required

1.4 **Communications**

Communications with Stage 2 and 3 stakeholders and City Design and the contractor are continuing to ensure owners/occupiers are informed of the effects of forthcoming work and its suitability on their operations. The project liaison officer ensures day to day contact is maintained with these people.

1.5 **Additional Bus Shelters in the Square**

City Design has recently completed consultation with Stage 1 stakeholders on the proposals for five additional bus shelters on the footpaths in the northwest quadrant. These proposals will be presented to the Committee. The proposals have generally not been well received by Stage 1 owners/occupiers, but it is not so much the issue of the bus shelters that the stakeholders are not happy with, it is the buses themselves.

The bus shelters require a discretionary activity resource consent because they are being built in a protected place (ie Cathedral Square). The Council's discretion is limited to matters concerning the heritage value of the Square only. This means consent is only required from the NZ Historic Places Trust, however an independent Commissioner could decide to notify the application and call for public submissions.

There are two options to advance this matter:

- (i) Lodge the necessary resource consent application and Section 339 (Local Government Act) Notice and address the stakeholders concerns through the legal process. (Even if stakeholders had no legal mechanism to object, they have indicated their strong opposition.) This could be a long and drawn out process attracting much opposition, ill-feeling, closure of some business (threatened) and costs in advancing. It could inflame an already difficult situation.
- (ii) Not to proceed with the placement of the proposed footpath shelters in the northwest quadrant. This means the bus patrons will have limited shelter (provided only through shop verandahs) and does little to improve passenger comfort and enhance public transport generally. Additional seating could be pursued further.

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Note, the Council has deferred the establishment of a working party until October 1998 to advance the proposed bus interchange system, meanwhile staff continue to work on this matter.

On balance, the project team prefer Option 2 (ie not to proceed with the current additional shelter proposals). This option is likely to be met with opposition from public transport promoters and the Canterbury Regional Council.

1.6 Sculpture in the Square

The Community Trust has confirmed a grant of \$226,000 for a sculpture in the Square. The working party established previously will meet again shortly to advance this matter and establish a Brief for the work.

2. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- Stage 4 and lighting tenders (tender evaluation/recommendation report ready at end of November 1998).
- Children's play equipment (brief to be confirmed following \$100,000 funding which was approved in the 1998 Annual Plan).
- Activities and features in the Square (to be reported further to the Committee probably in early 1999).
- Police kiosk (to be reported further with financial report at end of November 1998).

3. APPROVALS SOUGHT

Committee approval is sought to not proceed with the proposals for the footpath shelters in the northwest quadrant of the Square.

PROGRAMME

The target date for completion of Stage 3 works is currently the end of November 1998. Progress is currently behind programme by several weeks and to ensure that the target is met weekly detailed programme and progress reviews are being undertaken with the contractor.

COST CONTROL

An updated cost report will be presented to the 14 September meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

This report will provide as much detail as is available at the time and will update the Cost Review Report presented to the 6 August 1998 Central City Committee. It will include the preliminary findings of a Value Management Workshop being held on 2 and 3 September 1998.

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- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That Committee discusses the five proposed bus shelters on the footpath in the northwest quadrant with the view to not proceeding with them and that the project team pursue the provision of seats instead as an interim solution

- Chairman's Recommendation:**
1. That the Committee continue to meet to be updated on any financial details as the information becomes available.
 2. That the Committee realise the urgent need to progress the bus planning proposals with a view to enhancing the public transport system and improving passenger service (for example, removal of delays for waiting passengers, restricted bus waiting times in the Square).