

26. ST ALBANS BUS SERVICE – WESTON ROAD/BRETTS ROAD BUS STOPS

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Andrew Hensley, Assistant Planner, DDI 371 1516
Corporate Plan Output: 9.2.100 Passenger Transport Infrastructure	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of continuing opposition to one pair of bus stops in Weston Road, that were approved by the Board at its October 2000 meetings.

BACKGROUND

At its October 4 meeting, the Shirley/Papanui Community Board was presented with a report of proposed bus stop changes as a result of the extension of the St Albans Bus service.

Recommendations were made by the City Streets Unit as to the preferred locations of bus stops to service this route. Those property owners who were not agreeable to a bus stop outside their property were invited to address the Board to express their opposition. A number of property owners chose to do so. A site visit also took place in which Board members viewed each of the proposed bus stop locations. The Board subsequently approved the recommendations.

DISCUSSION

There has been continuing opposition to the pair of bus stops in Weston Road near the Bretts Road intersection. Since the decision was made, three letters have been addressed to the Mayor from the owners of 92 Weston Road, and two other residents have telephoned requesting additional information.

A site meeting arranged by Cr. Stonhill to discuss these issues took place on 2 November. Residents felt that insufficient consideration had been given to the use of a corner property, and the layout of their properties. In particular there were strong concerns raised as to the perceived manner in which the bus stop would impinge on their outdoor living areas.

The outcome of the meeting was that in addition to their continued opposition to the St Albans bus service along Weston Road, the property owners of 92 Weston Road and other interested residents do not wish to have a pair of bus stops installed at the western end of Weston Road. As an alternative they are requesting that two bus stops in Bretts Road be reinstated for a trial period of 6 months. Councillor Stonhill has asked the Board to consider this request.

The rationalisation of stops as reported to the Board was recommended for the following reasons:

- The removal of the Bretts Road stops due to their close proximity to another pair of stops at the Bretts Road / Innes Road intersection.
- The stops in Weston Road were recommended so as to provide a better spacing between stops, and a more logical stop placement in keeping with other improvements to bus stop location throughout the city.
- There will be a minor improvement to access to bus services for an additional number of residents in Weston Road, Bretts Road and Chapter Street.
- It will better identify Weston Road as a bus route.
- Where possible it is preferable to have bus stops opposite each other.

Leaving the present bus stop locations in Bretts Road in place once the new service comes into effect on November 20 (instead of installing the approved pair of stops outside 92 and 97a Weston Road) will enable the service to operate. The resulting stop placements will however be inconsistent with current City Council approved bus stop guidelines, for effective service along a route.

The preferred option from the City Streets Unit's viewpoint is to undertake the bus stops changes as decided by the Board and Council, and monitor the performance of the bus stops, with a review after 6 months.

For discussion.