

12. NORTH EAST BUS SERVICE REVIEW - ADDITIONAL BUS STOPS: ROOKWOOD AVENUE AND BOWER AVENUE

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Corporate Plan Output: Passenger Transport Infrastructure 9.2.100	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the temporary bus stops installed in Rookwood Avenue and Bower Avenue as a result of public requests, arising from the North East Bus Service Review of November 2000. It is also to seek the Board's support for these bus stops to be formalised, which will be reported to the City Services Committee for its consideration.

BACKGROUND

As a result of the North East Bus Service Review and after extensive public consultation, Environment Canterbury changed the route and the frequency of the 19 North Beach service to that of the new 49 North Shore. With this service now utilising Rookwood Avenue and Bower Avenue (instead of Rookwood Avenue and Travis Road), the existing bus stops along these roads, which are utilised by two other services, are considered too far away for elderly persons wishing to access the shops and services in this area. A relatively large number of requests have been received by the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury for additional bus stops to be installed.

As mentioned in the report to the Board at its 2 October 2000 meeting, additional bus stops may be required.

A map of the bus routes in this area will be available at the Board meeting.

BUS STOPS

In response to the requests and due to the holiday period, arrangements were made for two temporary stops to be installed after a consultation process.

One stop was located in Bower Avenue outside Total Mobility and the Orion Substation, and the other outside 67 and 69 Rookwood Avenue. These stops were positioned to provide improved access for those on the 49 North Shore to the facilities in the area, and to reduce the impact of these additional stops on the more frequent services which also utilise these roads.

These bus stops have been installed and appear to be operating in a satisfactory manner with no complaints from the adjacent property owners. The intention is now to formalise these bus stops.

CONSULTATION

In locating new bus stops, a number of locations are investigated by the Assistant Planner and Area Engineer to assess suitability. Property owners adjacent to such locations are consulted; in this case, property owners in Rookwood Avenue and Bower Avenue within easy access to the facilities in the area.

From this consultation process two locations were selected as being both suitable for a bus stop and also where it was believed that the property owner was not opposed. The sites were sent through for installation on this basis. Many property owners were opposed for various reasons.

Approximately six weeks after consultation was undertaken, one property owner (67 and 69 Rookwood Avenue) then indicated that they would be opposed to a bus stop. In light of this new information, this opposition is being indicated to the Board in this report for consideration when supporting or otherwise the formalising of the bus stops.

Since the installation of the bus stop there have been no complaints from this owner.

It is preferred to locate bus stops where agreement has been gained from the property owner. Where this is not possible a decision and recommendation has to be made as to what is the best location for the greater good of the community and all stakeholders; bus users, potential bus users, motorists, residents and the bus operator.

Recommendation: That new bus stops in the following locations on a collector or arterial road be supported and reported to the City Services Committee:

1. On the west side of Bower Avenue commencing at a point 92 metres from its intersection with Travis Road and extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 12 metres (Total Mobility/Orion Substation).
2. On the south side of Rookwood Avenue commencing at a point 63 metres from its intersection with Bower Avenue and extending in an easterly direction of 12 metres (67 and 69 Rookwood Avenue).

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendation be adopted.