

15. TRAMWAY LANE PEDESTRIAN MALL

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Corporate Plan Output: On Street Management	

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to create a section of Tramway Lane as a pedestrian mall.

Tramway Lane is a narrow local access street that runs between Worcester Street and Hereford Street. The width of the Lane has a width of some 6 metres which has been formed with a 1.2 metre wide footpath and the balance as road carriageway. The Lane also forms part of the tram system and provides the link between the tram barn in the Lane and the main loop which starts in Worcester Street. There are a total of 9 properties serviced from the lane of which 5 require vehicle access.

The occupants of the lane have expressed concern about the use of the Lane by errant motorists. A number have also suggested that the Lane could be used for outdoor seating activities. The Lane is presently being used by "hoons" as part of their circulation route to and from Colombo Street. What is of special concern is the unique characteristics of the Lane as a sound shell and the attraction to motorists to exhibit their noisy devices. The behaviour of these motorists has had a material impact on the adjacent business. This has resulted in both loss of business and concern for the safety of customers as well as visitors to this locality.

A number of possible solutions could be introduced for the control this section of street. These solutions range from devices to moderate the speed of vehicles to part closure of the Lane. Devices to slow vehicles such as road humps could add to the challenge that the Lane already presents. The closure of part of the lane would require vehicles to U turn to avoid vehicles reversing out of the Lane. There are limited opportunities for vehicles to carry out this manoeuvre.

A more effective solution for this section of road is to create a pedestrian mall similar to City Mall and New Regent Street. This Mall would however, operate at different times, as the proposed hours would be from 6pm to 7am the following day. This restriction would apply 7 days of the week. To overcome the conflict with the operation of the tram and access to two car parking areas the, proposed mall is recommended to extend from Hereford Street to the vehicle entrance to No 207 Manchester Street.

The proposed pedestrian mall has the support from all the affected property occupiers. A problem that would be unique to this situation is the proposed hours of operation. While there are some Council contractors that operate during the proposed hours of the pedestrian mall, the responsibility for any vehicle barriers will desirably rest with the property occupiers affected by the control. Representatives from this group have indicated their support with the control of any barriers.

Tramway Lane is seen to have potential both as a pedestrian route and as an area for outdoor seating. The tram barn was especially constructed with windows to be an attraction in itself. Adjacent to the Hereford Street intersection on either side of Tramway Lane there are food and beverage outlets as well as the potential of the Lane itself. Submissions have been made to enhance the street with tree planting, feature paving and the addition of other features to give special character and at the same time provide physical restraint to the speed of vehicles along the street. Currently no special provision has been set aside for these works in the Council budget or central city initiatives.

Recommendation: 1. That pursuant to section 336 of the Local Government Act 1974, the Christchurch City Council resolves by Special Order, that the part of Tramway Lane between Worcester Street and Hereford Street shown on the plan attached be declared a pedestrian mall.

2. That the driving or parking of any vehicles or the riding of any animals be prohibited between the hours of 6pm and 7am the following day and from Monday to Sunday subject to the following exceptions and conditions:
 - (a) Trade and other vehicle (including those operated by service authorities) of any class may enter the Mall at specified times if authorised by the Parking Operations Manager or City Streets Manager.
 - (b) Street cleaning and rubbish collection vehicles operated by the Christchurch City Council or its nominated contractor may enter the Mall at any time.
 - (c) Any vehicle or specified class of vehicle that has entered the Mall under any section of this special order must not be parked for a longer period than is necessary for its driver to carry out his or her business or for the period of any emergency.
 - (d) Nothing in this Special Order shall be deemed to prohibit or restrict the use of the Mall by any fire appliance, ambulance or other vehicle where it is necessary for that appliance or ambulance or other vehicle to enter the Mall or portion thereof for the protection of human life or property
3. That consideration be given to enhancing Tramway Lane as part of the Central City amenity improvements.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.