

SUBMISSION ON
PROPOSED TRAMWAY EXTENSION

Tracey Dorreen

I wish to submit my opposition to the proposed tramway extension for safety and economic reasons.

Safety

At present the current tramway route runs through some areas that I personally consider to be unsafe. An example would be by the pedestrianised area of the Square. For a vision impaired person like me, it is difficult to tell the difference between the edge of the footpath and the tram rails. While I appreciate that drivers of these vehicles are careful to warn people of an approaching tram, it is not always easy for those with a hearing impairment to tell the direction from where the tram is coming from.

To extend the route into Manchester Street is indeed a dangerous suggestion. This particular road is already heavily congested and introducing the tram into the flow of traffic would only serve to exacerbate this problem.

To extend the new tram route into City Mall also poses safety risks, especially for people with disabilities and older people. Ideally, City Mall should be kept as a pedestrian area for the people who shop in this vicinity. While there are times where the City Mall is relatively quiet, there are also certain events such as Christmas where an increase in foot traffic abounds. Adding a tram to this mix is dangerous because an elderly person may be accidentally pushed into the way of an oncoming tram. If this route is to proceed along the City Mall, then certain safety standards need to be put in place to prevent this sort of incident occurring.

Economics

The present tram system has now existed for 12 years', however, it is only recently that its financial situation has only just broken even. In my opinion, it does not make any economic sense as to why this tram extension should go ahead. There appears to be no information about how the extension will increase the profitability of this venture. I am also aware that Council should be given more attention to other basic council issues such as value for the rates dollar or how Council can improve on core basic services such as rubbish collections, cleaning gutters to name just two examples. The tram is mainly catering to the tourist market, which may be heading towards a downward trend due to international global trends.

I would urge you to give due consideration to my submission and consider how we can put the ratepayers' money to better use so that all Christchurch citizens benefit from improvements to our city, rather than on frivolous ventures that are primarily focused on the tourist market.

Tracey Dorreen
34 Hammersley Avenue
Shirley
Christchurch 8013

Ph 980-3834 or 027 637 9463

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