

17 December 2009

Dear Resident/Ratepayer

Revocation of the pedestrian mall status of Manners Mall and creation of a shared public space in lower Cuba Street

As you may be aware, the Council agreed on the 11 December to revoke Manners Mall's pedestrian mall status. The Council will now be working to implement a two-way bus way through what is now Manners Mall and new shared public space in lower Cuba Street.

The project will provide a quicker, more direct bus route through the city and better pedestrian links from Cuba Mall to Civic Square and the waterfront.

As a result of last week's decision, a number of changes are proposed in the area that will be the subject of a traffic resolutions process early next year. These include changes to the flow of traffic in lower Cuba Street and parking and kerb line changes. About 40 additional on-street car parking spaces are planned as part of the project, mainly in Wakefield and Dixon streets. There will be an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes, but we wanted you to have a copy of the preliminary plans before the holiday period so you could see what is being proposed.

The changes will be formally advertised in mid-January and the owners and residents of directly affected properties will receive more information early in the New Year. The Council will review these plans and any feedback about them in mid-March.

The proposal to reduce the speed limit from 50km/h to 30km/h on Manners Street and Courtenay Place will also be subject to a consultation process early in the New Year.

The Council received and considered 473 written submissions and heard 50 oral submissions before reaching its decision. Analysis of the submissions showed 211 supported revoking Manners Mall's pedestrian mall status, a further 28 agreed subject to some conditions, and 227 opposed it.

Nearly 70 percent of the 47 organisations that made submissions supported the proposal, including 10 organisations with transport expertise or responsibilities. These included Greater Wellington Regional Council, NZ Bus, the New Zealand Taxi Federation and the New Zealand Transport Agency, which has agreed to part-fund the project.

Under the Local Government Act, the Council's decision to revoke Manners Mall's pedestrian mall status is subject to a one month appeal period which ends on Tuesday 12 January.

Provided there is no appeal, construction is expected to begin at the end of March. We're looking at doing the work in two stages. The changes in Manners Mall, including related work in other streets, are planned for 2010.

Work to create the new shared space in lower Cuba Street would happen in 2011 and be finished by the end of August in time for the Rugby World Cup.

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me on 499 4444.

Yours sincerely

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Enclosed : Proposed Plans