

Auckland City Centre Resident's Group

Submission (online) 08.11.17 to Auckland Transport on 'Princes St and Eden Cr intersection - Minor Safety Improvements'

I write as the Chair of the Auckland City Centre Residents' Group, representing the group.

The Auckland City Centre Residents' Group has as it's Transport Statement:

Pedestrians, public transport and cycling must have priority over private transport in all transport related projects in, and around, the city centre.

- Our principle focus is to support the integrity of the City Centre Masterplan (including the Waterfront Plan) as the primary delivery model for all city centre projects including transport choices.

This is also enshrined in the City Centre Masterplan that Auckland Council has established for the City Centre, and we expect its CCOs to also implement the vision and intent of the CCMP.

The proposals are indeed very minor - in fact not really providing any measurable safety benefits to pedestrians at this very busy and important walking route.

Vehicular traffic continues to receive absolute priority.

As mentioned, this is a heavily foot-trafficked area. Traversed on foot, by 1000's of students and University workers, businesses, and of course not to mention the 1000's of residents who live in apartment buildings in the immediate area. Everyone knows of, and talks about the perilous nature of this intersection.

Clearly speeds need to be reduced to 30kph maximum to effectively manage the risk to pedestrians that a blind hill top location creates.

If traffic lights cannot be installed, then there need to be pedestrian crossings across all 3 legs of this T junction, to give pedestrians priority. Ideally there would be central islands to prevent vehicles turning at speed across this intersection as they currently do. Such islands might also provide some additional protection from cars travelling to fast and failing to give way to more vulnerable road users.

There clearly needs to be some removal of car parking – especially around the Emily Reserve proposed 'pram' crossing, to provide sufficient sight lines for pedestrians, and for cars to see them.

Unfortunately, these initial proposals from AT continue to prioritise vehicle movements over everything else, without any meaningful safety improvements or mitigation of the hazards to pedestrians, reduction in vehicle speeds, or reduction in risk, for everyone moving around this area on foot. There is an opportunity, but it is being missed. It is more of a pity, as calls for this to be properly addressed have been made for years now, and to have this proposal as the outcome, well it is pretty disappointing.

It needs to be stressed again that we know it is pedestrian traffic that drives retail success in the central city so pedestrians, and pedestrian safety, must have the highest priority everywhere.

We have members who would be most interested in meeting Auckland Transport on site to discuss what other measure might be looked at. We also have members living in the immediate area who would also be interested in providing residents' perspective, as we are not aware of any specific effort to reach out to residents in the area, even though they are obviously the main users of this intersection.

Thank You,

Noelene Buckland, Chair - City Centre Residents' Group