



Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Christine Toner
Consultation Leader
Capital Programme Group
PO Box 237
Christchurch Mail Centre
Christchurch 8140

Dear Christine

RE: TWO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OXFORD TCE/LICHFIELD ST INTERSECTION

SUBMISSION FROM SPOKES CANTERBURY

Thanks for the opportunity to make this submission. Spokes Canterbury is a local cycling advocacy group with approximately 1200 members that is affiliated with the national Cycling Advocate's Network (CAN). Spokes is dedicated to including cycling as an everyday form of transport in the greater Christchurch area.

Spokes would like to congratulate the Christchurch City Council on an innovative and thoughtful approach to a difficult traffic management problem at the above mentioned intersection and along Oxford Tce ("the Strip").

Spokes generally supports these proposals. We are particularly pleased that this part of Oxford Tce is to remain open for cycling at all times, as this street provides a safe route into this part of the city. Allowing cyclists to continue to access Oxford Tce by utilising a gap in the proposed traffic island at the Durham St - Lichfield St intersection is innovative and should work well. However, care will need to be taken in the overall intersection design to ensure that the width and depth of the gap provides sufficient space for cyclists, and to ensure that cycles do not pull out into the path of traffic turning left from Durham into Lichfield St.

Spokes has some concerns as to whether the design of the traffic island at the southern end of Oxford Tce could also exclude emergency vehicle access into the street (as allowed under the proposal) such as an ambulance dispatched from Christchurch Hospital.

Finally a structure such as that proposed could potentially cause difficulties for the organisers of the Festival of Cycling Criterium event which has in recent years

become a signature event in our city in November. This is something that I am sure the organisers of these events and services will make their own submissions on.

While not in the brief for this submission I would also ask that the council applies the same innovative approach to traffic management when the proposed tram line extensions are in place in this area and continue to allow full access to Oxford Tce to cyclists.

Thanks again for the opportunity to make this submission. If there are matters requiring clarification, please contact our Submissions Co-ordinator Robin Delamore in the first instance. His contact details are:

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Paul de Spa
Chairperson, Spokes Canterbury