

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Hearings Committee will be held on:

Date: Wednesday 24 July 2019
Time: 9.00 am
Venue: Edinburgh Room, Municipal Chambers, The Octagon, Dunedin

Sue Bidrose
Chief Executive Officer

PEDESTRIANISATION OF THE RAILWAY STATION

HEARINGS AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Independent Commissioner	Louise Taylor
Senior Officer	Susan Lilley (Transport Planning Team Leader)
Governance Support Officer	Lynne Adamson

Lynne Adamson
Governance Support Officer

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Note: Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.

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PART A REPORTS

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FOR RAILWAY STATION PEDESTRIAN MALL PROPOSAL

Department: Transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report presents a summary of the 46 submissions received on a Dunedin City Council (DCC) proposal to create a pedestrian mall along part of the unnamed section of legal road that forms the frontage of the Dunedin Railway Station. This includes 45 submissions received during the formal consultation period of 10 June to 5 July 2019 and one submission received on 5 July but after the 5pm deadline.
- 2 Of the 46 submissions, 87 percent supported the proposal, 13 percent were opposed.
- 3 Seven of the submitters have requested to be heard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commissioner:

- a) **Accepts** the one late submission received from Good Company Tours;
- b) **Considers** the summary of submissions in their deliberation of the Railway Station pedestrian mall proposal;
- c) **Decides** whether or not to grant a declaration pursuant to clause 336 of the Local Government Act 1974 in relation to the proposed pedestrian mall.

BACKGROUND

- 4 The Dunedin Railway Station is one of Dunedin's most celebrated heritage buildings and attracts hundreds of visitors a year. For many years, the Council has received feedback on the impact of moving and parked buses and vehicles on pedestrian safety and general amenity in front of the Dunedin Railway Station.

- 5 The Dunedin Railway Station, the thoroughfare that forms its frontage and Anzac Square are part of the city's Cultural and Entertainment Quarter. This 'quarter' includes the Octagon, lower Stuart Street, the Dunedin Railway Station and connections to Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. The area is intended as the city's civic, entertainment and tourism centre, providing a hub for visitors and locals. Key objectives for the Cultural and Entertainment Quarter include to:
- Establish the area as a convenient and more attractive place for all people to visit.
 - Improve pedestrian connections between the Octagon, the Railway Station and Toitū Otago Settlers Museum.
 - Improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users and reduce crash rates.
- 6 The land in front of the Railway Station is unnamed legal road. It currently provides two-way vehicle access between Anzac Avenue and Castle Street/High Street (SH1/southbound).
- 7 The thoroughfare in front of the Dunedin Railway Station is a busy commuter route for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from the city centre (and a tourist route linking key visitor destinations such as Toitū Otago Settlers Museum and the Octagon).
- 8 Use of the thoroughfare for tour bus and coach parking has a significant impact on the amenity of the Dunedin Railway Station. Passenger vehicles, including large tour coaches, use the thoroughfare to drop off and pick up visitors. The thoroughfare between Anzac Avenue and Castle Street/High Street (SH1/southbound) encourages 'rat-running' by local traffic in front of the Dunedin Railway Station, which negatively impacts pedestrian safety.
- 9 The proposal to restrict motor vehicle traffic along the Proposed Pedestrian Mall is intended to improve the safety, accessibility and 'look and feel' of the Railway Station frontage. An aerial photograph showing the proposed changes is included as Attachment A.
- 10 The proposal is also intended to contribute to the vision of the Central City Plan's Cultural and Entertainment Quarter, as a safe and attractive hub for visitors and locals.
- 11 A copy of the Statement of Proposal released for consultation is included as Attachment B.
- 12 Two trial closures of motor vehicle access to the Dunedin Railway Station have been carried out. The first was for four days between Thursday 25 January 2018 and Sunday 28 January 2018. The second was for two weeks between 17 February and 3 March 2019.
- 13 Feedback during both trials showed a majority of submitters were supportive of the trial. One hundred and fifty (150) submissions were received from the public during the first trial, with 127 in support, 15 in support with reservations and eight (8) opposed. Fifty four (54) submissions were received during the second trial, with 44 in support, 4 in support with reservations and six (6) opposed.

DISCUSSION

- 14 This section provides a summary of results from recent public consultation undertaken using the special consultative procedure. It also presents results of DCC social media polls.

Results of consultation

- 15 Consultation using the special consultative procedure ran from 10 June until 5 July 2019. A total of 46 submissions were received through Council's submission database, and full text of the submissions is available on Council's website at www.dunedin.govt.nz/railway-station-pedestrian-mall-public-feedback. There was one submission received on 5 July but after the 5pm deadline. A summary of this submission is included as Attachment C.
- 16 The majority of submissions were from individuals and from businesses that operate from or immediately around the Railway Station. Three submissions were from the health sector. These included CCS Disability Action, Southern District Health Board and WellSouth Primary Health Network.
- 17 The majority of submitters, 87 percent, supported the proposal, and 13 percent were opposed.
- 18 The main themes that came through in the comments were (in order of popularity):
 - Positive comments about increased safety for pedestrians as a result of restricted access for vehicles.
 - Positive comments about improvements to the look and feel of the area as a result of restricted access for vehicles.
 - Need to ensure access for people with poor mobility, emergency vehicles and for deliveries.
 - Support for pedestrianised spaces as a general direction for Dunedin.
- 19 A few submitters suggested alternative vehicle restrictions to the proposal, with access for either buses only or motor vehicles only. Suggestions included retaining vehicle access one way south, retaining vehicle access one way north, and retaining vehicle access from both ends but restricting vehicles travelling through.
- 20 Other submitters made suggestions about how to improve the proposal. Suggestions included restricting cyclists and scooters as well as vehicles, limiting speeds of cyclists and scooters, providing directional guidance for cyclists using the area, and expanding the size of the pedestrian mall area by extending it south to the SH1/Castle Street entrance.
- 21 Submitters who commented about the parking arrangement proposed as part of the proposal were both positive (6) and negative (4).

Social media polls

- 22 The DCC created a poll on social media on 10 June, asking 'Do you think the Dunedin Railway Station frontage should be pedestrianised?'. The poll included a link to the DCC website which contained information about the proposal.
- 23 Just over 1,500 people voted on the Facebook poll. Of these, 80% voted yes and 20% voted no. The Facebook poll reached almost 14,000 people. On Twitter, 63 people voted, with 92% voting yes and 8% voting no. The Twitter poll reached almost 1400 people.
- 24 A copy of the poll results and comments are included as Attachment D.

OPTIONS

- 25 There are no options with this report as its purpose is to present the results of public consultation on the Railway Station pedestrian mall proposal for consideration by the Commissioner.

NEXT STEPS

- 26 This summary of submissions on the Railway Station pedestrian mall proposal is to inform the independent Commissioner who is hearing submissions in July 2019. The Commissioner will then make their decision on whether or not to declare the section of road along the front of the Railway Station to be a Pedestrian Mall. This decision will be reported to Council for noting in August.

Signatories

Author:	Susan Lilley - Transport Planning Team Leader
Authoriser:	Richard Saunders - Group Manager Transport

Attachments

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SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This report relates to providing local infrastructure and it is considered good quality and cost effective.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spatial Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposal to create a pedestrian mall in front of the Dunedin Railway Station contributes to the objectives of the Central City Plan. The proposal also contributes to the integrated transport strategy's efforts to improve safety in the city, particularly for vulnerable users.

Māori Impact Statement

There are no known impacts for tangata whenua.

Sustainability

The proposed pedestrian mall promotes the use of the area for pedestrians and cyclists.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for the LTP, Annual Plan, Financial Strategy or Infrastructure Strategy.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications beyond existing Transport budgets.

Significance

This decision has been assessed under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as being of high significance as it relates to a Strategic Asset.

Engagement – external

A four day trial was undertaken in January 2018. One hundred and fifty (150) submissions were received from the public. A two week trial was then undertaken in February 2019. The NZTA has also been consulted, and it is in support of the proposal.

Engagement - internal

Internal engagement has been with Parks, City Development, Economic Development Unit, Legal Services and Property Teams.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

The proposed changes reduce health and safety risks associated with the railway station forecourt.

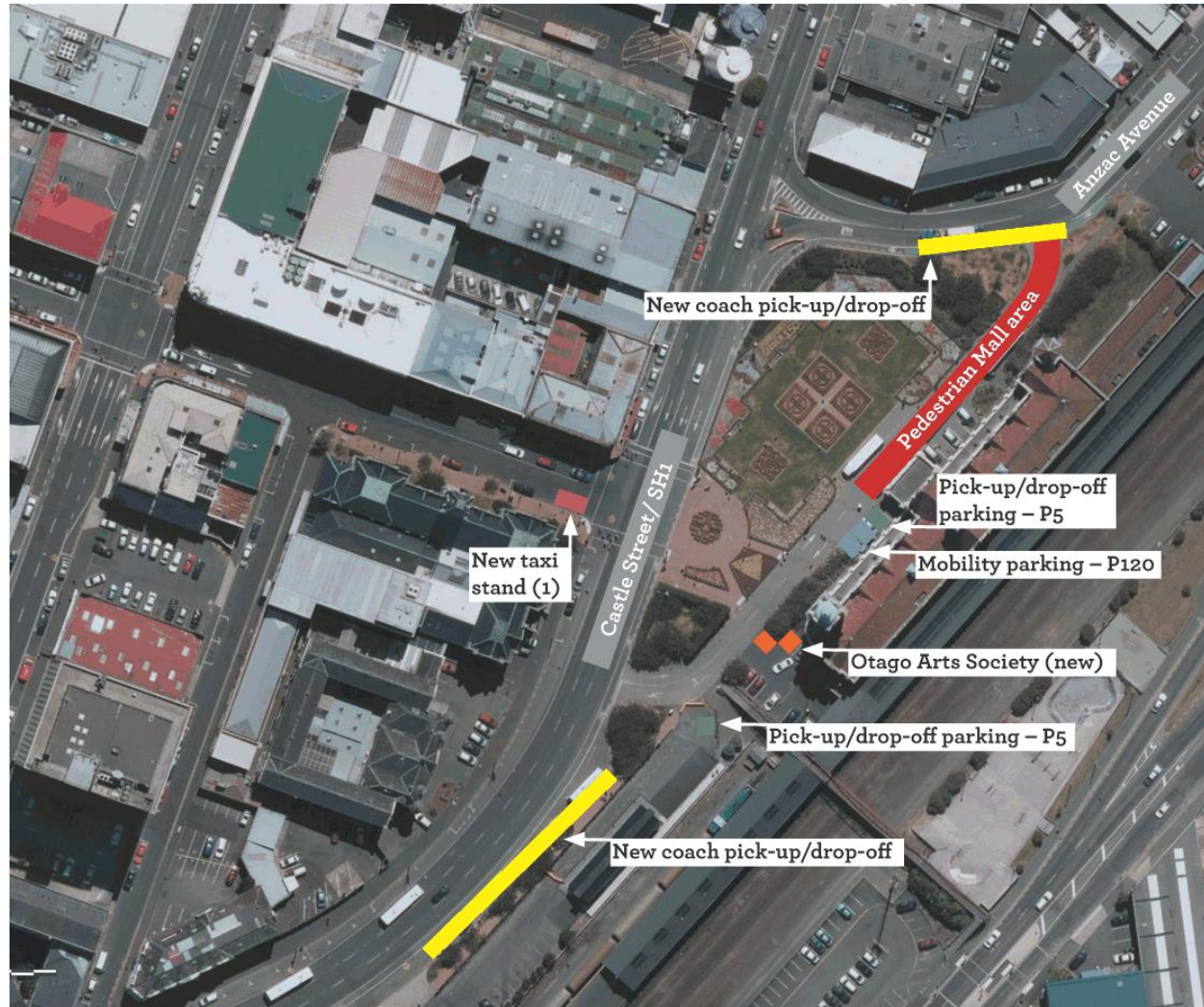
SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interest.

Community Boards

There are no known implications for Community Boards.





RAILWAY STATION
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN MALL
Statement of Proposal



This statement of proposal is prepared under
the Local Government Act 1974 and 2002

INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Proposal sets out the proposal to create a pedestrian mall along part of the unnamed section of legal road that forms the frontage of the Dunedin Railway Station.

PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to restrict motor vehicle traffic and create a pedestrian mall along part of the unnamed section of legal road that forms the frontage of the Dunedin Railway Station. The proposal is to retain access for pedestrians, cyclists, motorised scooters, mobility scooters, maintenance vehicles and for emergency service vehicles only.

The Dunedin Railway Station is one of Dunedin’s most celebrated heritage buildings and attracts hundreds of visitors a year. For many years, the Council has received feedback on the impact of moving and parked buses and vehicles on pedestrian safety and amenity in front of the Dunedin Railway Station.

BACKGROUND

The Dunedin Railway Station, the thoroughfare that forms its frontage and Anzac Square are part of the city’s Cultural and Entertainment Quarter. This ‘quarter’ includes the Octagon, lower Stuart Street, the Dunedin Railway Station and connections to Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. The area is intended as the city’s civic, entertainment and tourism centre, providing a hub for visitors and locals.

Key objectives for the Cultural and Entertainment Quarter include to:

- Establish the area as a convenient and more attractive place for all people to visit.
- Improve pedestrian connections between the Octagon, the Railway Station and Toitū Otago Settlers Museum.
- Improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users and reduce crash rates.

A copy of the Central City Plan is available at www.dunedin.govt.nz/centralcityplan

OPTIONS

<p>Preferred Option:</p> <p>The proposal to restrict motor vehicle traffic along the unnamed section of legal road that forms the frontage of the Dunedin Railway Station is intended to improve the safety, accessibility and ‘look and feel’ of the Railway Station frontage, particularly for pedestrians.</p>	
<p><i>Advantages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It reduces safety risk for pedestrians presented by moving and parked tour buses and coaches. • It reduces safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists presented by local traffic using the thoroughfare in front of the Dunedin Railway Station as a ‘rat run’ between Anzac Avenue and Castle Street/High Street (SH1/southbound). • It creates greater opportunities to improve the amenity values in the vicinity of the Dunedin Railway 	<p><i>Disadvantages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It reduces vehicle access to the thoroughfare in front of the Railway Station building, including access to seven P30 car parking spaces and one taxi stand located in front of the Railway Station building. Two new P30 car parking spaces will be accommodated in the southern car park area. The taxi stand will be relocated to Lower Stuart Street outside the court house. • For the space to achieve the advantages listed above, the use of DCC operational transport budget will be needed in the

<p>Station and views of the Dunedin Railway Station.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It reduces the risk of accidents from traffic exiting the Railway Station onto the State Highway. • It creates opportunities for improvements to be made to the area in a way that contributes to the vision of the Central City Plan, and Cultural and Entertainment Quarter as a safe and attractive hub for visitors and locals. 	<p>short term, and Central City Plan budget in the long term.</p>
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<p>Alternative Option: Do nothing:</p> <p>In this option no change would be made to the thoroughfare in front of the Railway Station building</p>	
<p><i>Advantages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no change to the existing road configuration and vehicle access to the thoroughfare in front of the Railway Station building would remain. There is no cost associated with this option. 	<p><i>Disadvantages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety issues resulting from conflict between pedestrians and tour buses and coaches will remain. Local traffic 'rat-running' through the area will continue. • No amenity improvements will be achieved as large tour coaches would still be able to block views of the entrance and ground floor and detract from the visitor experience. • The opportunities to achieve the objectives of the Cultural and Entertainment Quarter will not be fully maximised.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Council wants to know what you think about the proposed Railway Station Pedestrian Mall. Please fill out the feedback form so your views can be taken into account.

Where to from here?

- Public submission period closes at 5pm on Friday 5th July 2019
- Hearings
- The Council considers submissions and decides whether or not to declare the section of road along the front of the Railway Station to be a Pedestrian Mall and, if so, whether there will be any exemptions and conditions.
- If the Council decides to declare the section of road along the frontage of the Railway Station to be a Pedestrian Mall, a notice of the declaration will be published in the Otago Daily Times.
- Any person may, within 1 month after the making of a declaration (or at a later time allowed by the Environment Court), appeal to the Environment Court against the declaration (see <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1974/0066/latest/DLM420469.html>)
- The pedestrian mall comes into force when the time for appeals has expired or appeals have been determined.

SUMMARY OF LATE SUBMISSION ON RAILWAY STATION PEDESTRIAN MALL PROPOSAL

This presents a summary of the submission to the Dunedin Railway Station Pedestrian Mall Proposal that was received after the consultation period ended on 5 July.

Late submitters

One submission was received on= 5 July 2019 by after 5pm when the consultation period closed. The late submitter was:

1. Richard Trainor, Good Company Tours


The submission was in support of the proposal.

Comments

Comments from this submitter related to the parking arrangement proposed as part of the proposal and the need to ensure access for people with poor mobility. The submission included an alternative vehicle restrictions to the proposal.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLL RESULTS

FACEBOOK POLL

 **Dunedin City Council** created a poll. ⋮
Published by Sarah Bedford [?] · 10 June at 11:50 · 🌐


Do you think the Dunedin Railway Station frontage should be pedestrianised?
More info and have your say: <https://bit.ly/2QZ6tva>

80% Yes

20% No

This poll has ended. 1.5K Votes

13,998	877	Boost Unavailable
People reached	Engagements	

 **Joanne Hurst Kent, Karen de Beer and 9 others** 7 Comments 7 shares

1.2K – Yes 306 – No

Mark Cook Literally a 30 second walk from either end of the road, or a minute for some of those less able. It would improve safety and make photos look so much nicer.
[Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3w

Maire Bouman Morgan Along with St Clair Esplanade and the octagon!
3 [Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3w

Viv Baskerville Yes to pedestrians only. Also think the Star Fountain (or new equivalent) should be installed and food trucks set up off to the side (carpark on RHS of station) for people to have a quick dinner while watching fountain do evening shows. It is such a good spot, just needs a bit more happening.
1 [Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3w

Top fan Mark Jamieson Why even bother asking the voters? Did the council give two shits if people wanted the new stadium or not?
[Reply](#) · [Unhide](#) · 3w

Top fan Duane Donovan What's the plan for the cycle lane through there?
[Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3w

Dunedin City Council The proposal is to retain access for pedestrians, cyclists, motorised scooters, mobility scooters, maintenance vehicles and for emergency service vehicles only.
[Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Sarah Bedford · 3w

Greg Cole motorised scooters? Soooo, not pedestrianised then.
[Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3w

[Pauline Dicker](#) At the same time get rid of all the advertising flags etc. Pavement boards only.
[Manage Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3w

[Sharon Rohtmets](#) Keep the buses away.

TWITTER POLL

Dunedin City Council
@DnCityCouncil

Do you think the Dunedin Railway Station frontage should be pedestrianised?
More info and have your say: bit.ly/2QZ6tva

92%	Yes
8%	No

63 votes · Final results

11:51 AM · 10 Jun 2019

2 Retweets 3 Likes

👍 2 ❤️ 3 🗳️