

Bus Layover Feedback – Orakei Local Board June 6th 2018

Background:

The Ōrākei Local Board acknowledges that the rollout of the new bus network on July 8th 2018 will generate a requirement for infrastructure to accommodate more frequent, and some new services in our Ward. The Ōrākei Local Board acknowledges the current lack of reserved sites in Mission Bay for bus layovers. The existing layover site used in St Heliers is not fit for purpose, poses significant safety issues - particularly at the Turua St/Polygon Rd intersection, and has been a problematic issue for local businesses and residents for many years.

Feedback:

The Board's feedback is on the following proposed bus layover sites:

- #135 Tamaki Rd/Selwyn Ave
- #429 Tamaki Rd
- #384 Tamaki Rd
- Noting that the proposal for a layover site outside #125 Tamaki Drive as presented in consultation material has been confirmed by Auckland Transport as being withdrawn as an option and is no longer being considered.

Board feedback presented in this document does not apply to any proposed site in Polygon Rd or immediate environs, St Heliers - the plans for which are still under discussion and yet to be finalised and brought to the Board.

In order to accommodate the necessary layover sites, the Board accepts that there will be a consequent unavoidable loss of some unrestricted on-street parking. The loss of on street parking is unfortunate, particularly in these areas where our residents are quite reliant on private vehicle transport. Loss of parking should, in the Board's view, always be kept to the minimum. However, the provision of services for enhancing the public transport network will be of benefit to a greater number of Ward residents. Feedback is based on Auckland Transport's assurance that multiple sites were examined to determine where there would be minimum impact on existing amenities, including parking spaces to service local businesses, together with public safety as a primary determining factor.

AT has limited public feedback comment to the following issues:

- Any land development proposals or issues that may affect the proposed locations of the bus layovers.
- Any site specific safety issues with the proposed locations of the bus layovers.

However, in its role as local governors the Board requests Auckland Transport also take the following comments into consideration:

Bus Idling:

The consultation material refers to the matter of bus idling. Bus idling is not acceptable in the locations of these layovers which are in areas of significant pedestrian activity, particularly on Tamaki Drive which is a route extensively used for recreational purposes. It also creates a very unpleasant environment for shoppers and users of nearby business services, and must be properly controlled and monitored. The consultation material states as follows...

" Buses using this facility will not be permitted to idle with their engines running for extended periods..."

The Board is concerned with the lack of specifics in that statement and its preference is for a **clearly stipulated time limit** after which the engines **must be switched off** with signs to that effect installed at the layover points.

Designated Layover Time Restriction:

Two Board members have expressed the view that bus layover sites in both Mission Bay and St Heliers should be time restricted and not fully utilized over a 24 hour period. The hours of operation being limited to Monday – Friday during usual business operating hours, enabling the sites to be used for public parking at all other times.

Proposal for Layover – Selwyn Ave opposite #125 Tamaki Drive:

The Ōrākei Local Board appreciated Auckland Transport's willingness to work together with the Board and local community during this consultation taking into account residents' valid concerns about the impact of this site as originally proposed in the consultation material. The Board welcomes AT's decision to remove this site as an option for consideration for any future bus layover, and supports the alternative as proposed on the eastern side of Selwyn Ave.

Conclusion:

Subject to the comments as above the Board supports this programme of works to install bus layover infrastructure to support the new more frequent bus network servicing our Ward.