



Report 09.619
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Committee Transport & Access Committee
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Submission on Opening Manners Mall to Buses and update on Central Area Bus Operational Review

1. Purpose

To reaffirm support for Wellington City Council's proposal to reopen Manners Mall to buses and provide an update on the Central Area Bus Operational Review. An oral update will be given on the Operational Review.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

3.1 Opening Manners Mall to buses

Officer's made a submission in December 2008 strongly supporting Wellington City Council's proposed Golden Mile bus priority measures including reopening Manners Mall to buses (Report 08.861).

In February 2009 Councillor Glensor gave a presentation to Wellington City Council supporting the submission.

In June 2009 Wellington City approved the opening of Manners Mall to buses and a number of other bus priority measures.

3.2 Central Area Bus Operational Review

A previously reported, consultants have been undertaking a Central Area Bus Operational Review for Greater Wellington, including a comprehensive survey of bus travel times and boardings along the Golden Mile. The Operational Review is now almost complete.

4. Comment

4.1 Opening Manners Mall to buses

Wellington City Council approved the opening of Manners Mall to buses in June 2009 but to enable buses to use the Manners Mall area they now have to carry out further consultation using the Special Consultative Procedure to revoke the existing pedestrian status of Manners Mall. Submissions have been invited as part of the consultation process.

The proposal is substantially the same as that covered in Report 08.861 but with a further proposal and detail on reconfiguring lower Cuba Street as a shared pedestrian and vehicle space to compensate for the public space that will no longer be available in Manners Mall when opened to buses.

Further detail is provided in Report 08.861 (**Attachment 1**) and the submission made as a result of that report (**Attachment 2**). In accordance with the recommendations below, officers will prepare a submission in line with Council's earlier submission. The submission will also include relevant new information from the Operational Review.

4.2 Update on Central Area Bus Operational Review

The Central Area Bus Operational Review is now almost complete. An oral presentation on the results of the review will be provided at the Committee meeting.

The review has reconfirmed Manners Mall as being the top priority for improving the efficiency and reliability of bus operations in the Central Wellington area.

The review has also identified a number of additional improvements that would result in further benefits for public transport users. These additional improvements include:

- Bus stop rationalisation and relocation of some stops;
- Bus stop layout and design improvements;
- Reallocation of road space;
- Parking restrictions and enforcement;
- Cashless ticketing;
- Integrated ticketing;
- Real time information and bus detection; and
- Bus scheduling optimisation.

The review clearly supports opening Manners Mall to buses, and the relevant new information from the review will be included in the submission to Wellington City Council.

5. Communication

No communications are required.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes the proposed pedestrian improvements to lower Cuba Street which are intended to replace the loss of public space in Manners Mall.*
4. *Notes that further assessments as part of the Central Area Bus Operational Review have highlighted the importance of improvements in the Manners Mall area, particularly in the northbound direction, to address travel time variability and reliability issues*
5. *Agrees to reaffirm support for opening Manners Mall to buses and requests that officers make a submission, in line with Council's earlier submission and including relevant new information from the Central Area Bus Operational Review, strongly supporting revocation of the pedestrian status of Manners Mall and opening Manners Mall to buses.*

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Attachment 1: Report 08.861

Attachment 2: Submission on "Restoring Wellington's Golden Mile"