

Auckland City Centre Resident's Group

CCRG Feedback on Emily Place Innovating Streets April Update Plans



CCRG is greatly supportive of more nimble, cheaper and flexible interventions such as these, that allow for trialling, testing and tweaking of projects that are effectively pilots or trials. Residents in the city centre of course are **the** most affected by roadworks, noise and disruption, and we welcome efforts to mitigate this via the nimble and lighter touch Innovating Street process.

The plan as proposed has the full support of CCRG.

CCRG is highly supportive of the well-consulted and agreed plans like the city centre masterplan, Access for Everyone, and this Innovating Streets philosophy, because of all the potential benefits for everyone, especially residents.

The Innovating Streets for People projects fit in with the City Centre Masterplan vision, local board plans, and of course CCRG's hopes for a more people-friendly city centre environment that promotes neighbourhoods and community for us all.

Many of the positions that CCRG have agreed upon and for which we advocate, can flow from the implementation of these plans, such as air quality improvements, more trees/greenery, noise reductions, street safety, ease of getting about, and just a more people-friendly city centre for all who either live, and work here, or just visit.

The co-design process with the community at the workshops and ongoing online feedback, has been distilled into this novel and innovative way to produce a plan and improve the public space and create people-space as well as calm traffic., all the while still allowing for the day-to-day essential needs of residents and businesses that don't have off street parking, in terms of loading/unloading and other vehicular accessibility.

Emily Place is a highly residential neighbourhood with a unique physical form, that really has the potential to be a stand out residential square – and this proposal shows the way towards that future vision in this trial form and process.

Residents and others can look forward to more space, a safer street environment – reduced non-local traffic, quieter, and cleaner air.

Specifically, we see these innovations as being notable for this project:

- Traffic slowing speed bumps
- Footpath extensions
- A one-way system that permits narrowing of streets, shorter crossing distances, slower speed, and discourages rat running
- Elimination of excessively large and speed-promoting vehicle asphalt areas.
- Extension of the reserve people-only space extended down the middle via the central plaza creating extra space with obvious physical, psychological and amenity benefits.
- Access to buildings, and existing loading zones are all maintained
- Car share is maintained
- Scooter and bike parking is provided
- Widened footpath at the bottom of Emily Place - a footpath that was too narrow for practical use.

Additional Comments

We are sure that apart from the obvious safety benefits, this will enable plenty of community and neighbourhood activity, as well as making a much more pleasant and safe trek up the hill for the many people on foot heading to the university, Albert Park, or across the coast-to-coast walkway.

The trial will demonstrate what can be achieved with our streets, which are of course all part of our collective public space. At the City Centre Advisory Board's (ACCAB) most recent prioritisation process, Emily Place came in at number two ranking, demonstrating high levels of support for the future targeted rate project that this project informs.

No doubt Residents of the area will be expecting to have a full Spring and Summer to enjoy the full benefits and activation opportunities of this initiative.

We do hope that there is some really good mana whenua input too, and that this is supported by budget as well.

We suspect that more work will need to be done on the parking arrangements and zoning to further encourage parking turnover – to reflect residents' need for 7 day and evening parking availability and therefore turnover across all days.

CCRG would like to commend all the people involved, especially the residents in the city centre Emily Place community for coming together across workshops and via online surveys to help realise this important pilot effort to bring safer streets for people to the city centre.

We would like to thank the Council and AT staff who led and participated, for working diligently through this – a first for the city centre, so no doubt much has been learnt along the way to apply for future similar projects in the city centre. It is heartening to see the intent of the Innovating Streets kaupapa applied and carried out via this project.

CCRG Committee
5 April 2021

<https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/emily-place> for April 21 all INFO and feedback