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## **SUMMERHILL DRIVE (TRANSPORT CHOICES PROGRAMME)**

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ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY  
MARCH/APRIL 2023

## SUMMERHILL DRIVE

Between February and April our engagement focused on businesses and organisations on or near Summerhill Drive/Aokautere Drive.

Following the Minister's announcement of the Transport Choices programme nationally, we were able to communicate the project with our community also. This included:

- A media release
- Social media posts
- 2500 letters to businesses/schools/organisations/residents/property owners along this section of Featherston St and side streets
- Webpage
- Online feedback form

February saw more intensive engagement with the businesses and organisations on Summerhill Drive, Ruapehu and Aokautere Drive. In total we spoke to around **51** people. This comprised: **14** businesses, **8** other stakeholders (local/government departments, general public who registered an interest, cycling groups, disability groups, and sports users/sporting organisations) and **29** people at a drop-in centre. These were a combination of face to face meetings, emails, phone calls and a drop-in centre. We also sent letters to around **2500** residents.

For businesses and key organisations – such as the Summerhill Shopping Centre, Childcare Centres and the International Pacific College – the key types of questions we asked included: How clients/customers enter/exit their business; how deliveries arrive/depart and what type of delivery vehicles; where do staff park; how do staff get to/from work; what concerns do they have about vehicle, pedestrian and cycle safety; what concerns they have; what would they like to see change; and what matters most to them.

**The key findings from businesses were:**

**Cyclist concerns:**

- **Several businesses favour a shared walkway/cycleway on *one side of the road*, with a barrier.**
- Noticeable increase in cyclists heading towards Aokautere – they seem nervous where there is no cycle lane directly in front of them
- Could we incorporate cycle lanes into the current walking tracks?
- Several businesses spoke about the need for more bike racks in the shopping centre.

**Pedestrian concerns:**

- **Several large businesses say there needs to be a pedestrian crossing on State Highway 57 nearer to IPU, not only for their students, but for all pedestrians to safely cross to the shops.**
- The current pedestrian crossing on State Highway 57 is not well positioned or obvious, is poorly painted and people feel very vulnerable crossing there, especially with speeding traffic.
- One childcare centre has their emergency gathering point on the other side of Aokautere Drive, but fears using the pedestrian crossing to take a large group of children over there - it is so unsafe crossing
- Raised pedestrian crossing on Ruapehu Drive (near 2 childcare centres) is dangerous as the signage is obscured 200 m back from the shops by trees.
- An overbridge would make everyone safer



- About 300 IPU students commute there each weekday, mostly using a mixture of public transport and e-scooters

#### **Traffic volume/future development /parking**

- Traffic volume is already high (including heavy vehicles) - expected growth in the area will cause further traffic increase, cyclists and pedestrians are feeling vulnerable. A cycleway/shared path is necessary.
- Try to keep road wide and reduce speed limit further to 50
- From one business owner, Post covid has converted us to a “click and collect” way of shopping, encouraging quick turnover in parking, which favours e-vehicles over cycling.
- From another business owner, their supermarket sees very little “click and collect” shopping happening (about 6 per day maximum).
- Traffic stopping at the coffee cart causes mayhem for all traffic, but mostly cyclists as vehicles pull out in and out of parks and into their live lane.
- Three businesses would like parks outside the coffee cart (Coffee in A Box) *taken away*. There are carparks further down Summerhill Drive (which have recently been painted with yellow lines, which vehicles ignore) which could be used.
- A nearby business has expressed trouble with coffee customers blocking the entranceway to their business, in some cases holding up delivery trucks.
- Indented parking not working well in front of the Landscape Yard, and Coffee in a Box – people were finding it difficult to access and exit, parking and using the kerb which causes damage.

#### **Intersections**

- Old West Road/Turitea intersection is dangerous – people try to avoid certain turns there. Many do u-turns further up to avoid the right turn.
- Pacific Drive from Ruapehu is dangerous with a big convergence of traffic
- Traffic in and out of Summerhill Shopping Centre is considerable.
- Yellow lines outside two adjacent childcare centres has caused staff to park further away, causing a parking congestion road narrowing effect on Ruapehu where people also enter/exist the shopping centre.

#### **Speeding**

- Speeding is a problem and there seems to be confusion about the speed limit, due to the converging of SH57, Aokautere Drive, Old West Road and Summerhill Drive and changing speed limits (50/60 and 70 kmh)
- Stakeholders were told that speed limits on SH57 are outside the scope of this project, but were assured that the findings in this report would be shared with Waka Kotahi.

#### **Other key themes from stakeholders were:**

- Active travel national targets will not be met with the current level of traffic congestion and projected development, making cyclists and pedestrians feel unsafe
- Safety of pedestrians is paramount
- Must maintain the ability to turn in and out of properties when the barriers are installed.
- How rubbish and recycling would be collected without the land being blocked by the trucks.
- Improving safety of cyclists and motorists at the intersection of Aokautere Drive/Summerhill road/Turitea road. (round-about please!)
- Support in reduction of speed limits. Support of the pedestrian crossing islands. Request for more parking bays.

**\*It is important to note these are just summaries of themes. Extensive notes were taken from all stakeholders that are being considered as part of any design, and these can be made available on request.**

**Between March and April, we asked the public for their ideas.**

A key part of this project for us is bringing the public along on the journey with us as we move from ideas to design to implementation to monitoring. In the past with a cycleway or other roading projects our engineers have designed options and asked for feedback. For this project, before our engineers work on a design we wanted to get community feedback to supplement that of the stakeholders on or within the vicinity.

This significant public engagement included:

- A media release
- Media interviews with local radio stations
- Digital advertising
- social media posts, ads
- Video
- Drop-in session at New World Aokautere
- Webpage
- Online feedback form

# Summerhill Drive cycleway and safety improvements

We want to make Summerhill Drive safer for all road users – whether you walk, bike, catch the bus or drive.

We've recently received 100 percent funding from Waka Kotahi – New Zealand Transport Agency to complete the cycleway between Tennent Drive and Pacific Drive, connecting Summerhill and Aukautere with Fitzherbert Bridge and the Manawatu River Pathway.

This stretch is known to be dangerous, so our designs focus on improving safety for all road users and providing a protection barrier on the cycleway.



## We want your feedback before we start design

Receiving your general feedback about how the street works, what needs improving and the type of cycleway you want to see means we can have a design that best suits the most people's needs.

In March/April we asked for your feedback on how we could make these streets safer. Our team are now working on proposed designs and will again seek your feedback in July/August.

## You'll hear from us again in winter to show you our proposed design

We will update everyone with our proposed design for you to give final feedback. Any updates will be posted on this page.

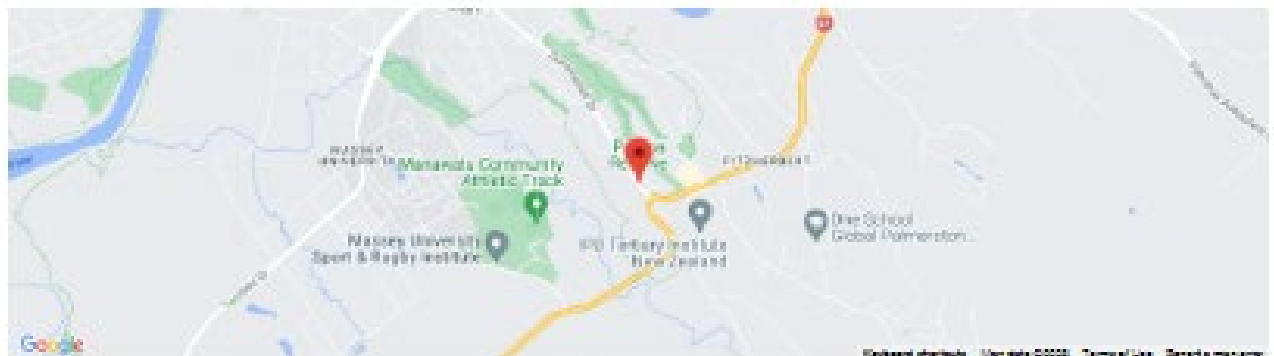
We intend on doing construction over summer, but that could change depending on how long it takes us to get your ideas, do more investigation and work on a detailed design.

## For more information

This work will encourage more people to choose to walk, bike or catch a bus to get around town. It supports our goals to be an innovative and growing city, and a creative and exciting city. You can find more detailed information about how we plan to achieve this in our Urban Cycle Network Masterplan, Active Communities and Transport Plans.


## Location

Summerhill Drive, Fitzherbert 4410 [View Map](#)



### Related Information

 [Urban Cycle Network Masterplan](#) PDF 10MB

 [Palmerston North Integrated Transport Initiative](#) PDF 20MB

## Drop-in session:

## New World Aokautere

This informal session was held outside New World supermarket, in Summerhill, scheduled to connect with shoppers and residents after school and work.

- **Monday 27 March, 4 to 6 pm**
- **29 people attended**



### What were the key themes raised by the public?

## Speed:

- Need for speed reduction on both Summerhill Drive and SH56 (otherwise no-one will feel safe walking or biking in this area).
- “It feels like we’re waiting for someone to die before we will take speed seriously in front of the shops,” said one resident.
- **We informed residents that speed limits on SH57 are outside the scope of this project but assured them that the findings in this report would be shared with Waka Kotahi.**

### **Summerhill Shopping Centre:**

- There needs to be a signalised crossing outside the Summerhill shops. Whilst there is a refuge in place people do not feel safe crossing it, or being stuck in the middle when large freight trucks are passing by them. "I don't understand how someone hasn't died in this spot yet".
- By Ruapehu drive and the shops a crossing would be good (not the SH)

### **Road Infrastructure/design/road markings etc.**

- Where line marking has been removed on Summerhill Drive, the road surface is poor and reflective and feels dangerous now
- Some more pedestrian refuges by the park (Summerhill Reserve) would be good as that's a popular crossing point for people walking/with dogs
- Barriers essential for cycleway to be safe and would stop people driving over cycle lane when going around the big corners.
- People keen to see cycleway on one side of the road only as that would help traffic flow and parking
- With a fast-growing area and future school soon, we need to be designing to what makes a child feel safe as the minimum point.
- Two people were keen to know what the barrier would be (not yet known) and how that would impact their access to their streets

### **Intersections**

- Needs to be a long-term plan for the Old West Rd/Summerhill/Sh56 intersection – several people have suggested a roundabout.
- Turning out of Pacific Drive as a car and crossing as a pedestrian is really hard. Residents would be keen if this area had some form of control in terms of roundabout/lights. Vehicles are speeding along Pacific Drive quite fast and it is quite scary.
- No turning bays near Williams Terrace and that is proving hard for people to get access in/out

### **Cyclist concerns**

- People don't feel safe on current cycleway and favouring quieter roads (like Cliff) until the street/speed is safer
- Cyclists concerned about the beginning bit between Fitzherbert Bridge and Summerhill Drive, that tight corner is very scary (cars undercut into the cycle lane) - barriers would help but still pretty scary.
- Preference to see the cycleway off road and wider. Current cycleway is quite narrow where it is and people feel exposed, small and unsafe next to the big vehicles. Keen to see the cycleway at the same level as footpath rather than road to help them feel safer.
- Currently people are parking in the cycle lane
- A couple of people said there is no need for a cycleway as people aren't cycling much.

## Social Media feedback

We received about 100 comments across our Featherston Street and Summerhill Drive Facebook posts.

This does not include comments on these posts shared by the public or in private groups. Some of the most popular themes are summarised below.

### **Road and congestion:**

- Speed needs reducing
- Congestion at Ruapehu/Summerhill Dr

### **Pedestrians:**

- More visible pedestrian crossing outside the shopping centre
- Pedestrian lights at shopping centre

### **Cycle lane:**

- Separated cycleway desired
- Trying to come out of Ruapehu Drive onto Summerhill with only a footpath on one side is impossible on a bike.



# Website survey form

The questions we asked were:

## Contact information

- Name
- Age
- Gender
- Email address
- Postal address

## Interest in the project

- I am a road user
- I live or own property on Summerhill/Aokautere Drive
- I attend a nearby school as a student, parent or teacher
- I work or own a business on Featherston Street
- Other

## How do you currently travel along Summerhill/Aokautere Drive?

- Car
- Bike
- Truck
- Walkjog
- E-scooter
- Public transport

## Perceived safety – walking

- How do you feel walking or using E-scooters/mobility scooters/skateboards (1=not safe – 10=safe)
- How safe do you feel crossing the road (1=not safe – 10=safe)
- Comment

## Perceived safety – cycling on Summerhill/Aokautere Drive

- How safe do you feel riding a bicycle along this stretch of the road? (1=not safe – 10=safe)
- What would encourage you to ride a bicycle along here more often?
- Comment

## Perceived safety – public transport

- How safe do you feel using public transport on this stretch of the road? (1=not safe – 10=safe)
- What would encourage you to use public transport along here more often?
- Your comment

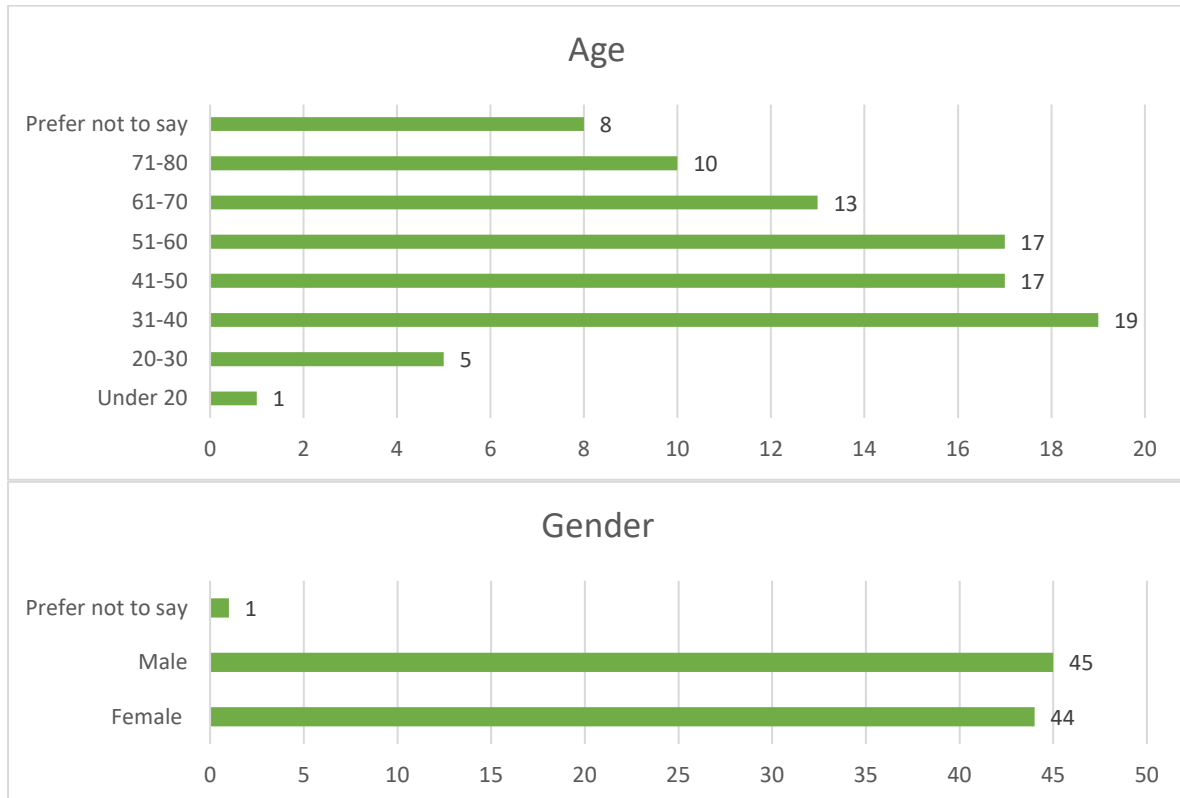
## Feedback on 2021 changes:

- What do you like about the changes that we made? What don't you like?
- Do you now choose to cycle more often?
- Do you now choose to cross the road more often?
- Would you like to see this type of cycleway extended for the entire stretch, or would you like us to consider alternative cycleway designs?
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?
- Other comments?

## Online survey results

The following data was captured in the **90** online responses on our Council website.

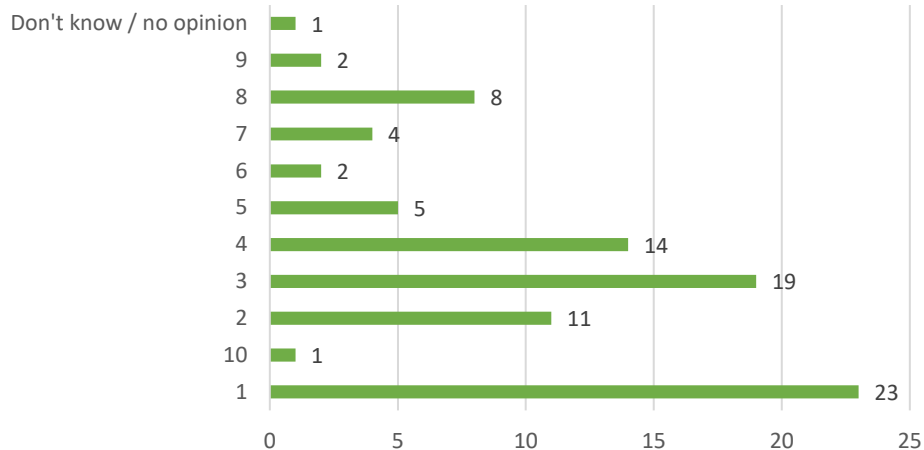
It does not include stakeholder feedback from businesses, drop-in sessions or school visits. These are summarised in the stakeholder feedback section.



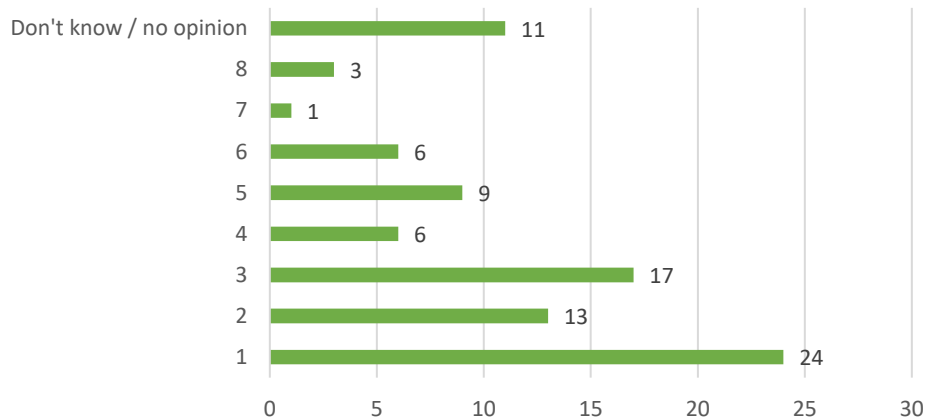
**Please note for the questions following, the ranking order was 1= unsafe and 10= very safe.**



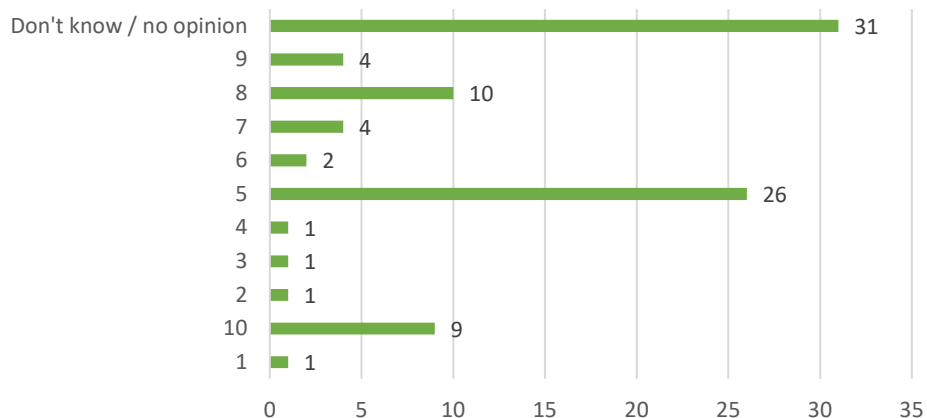
### How safe do you feel crossing the road?



### How safe do you feel riding a bicycle along this stretch of road?



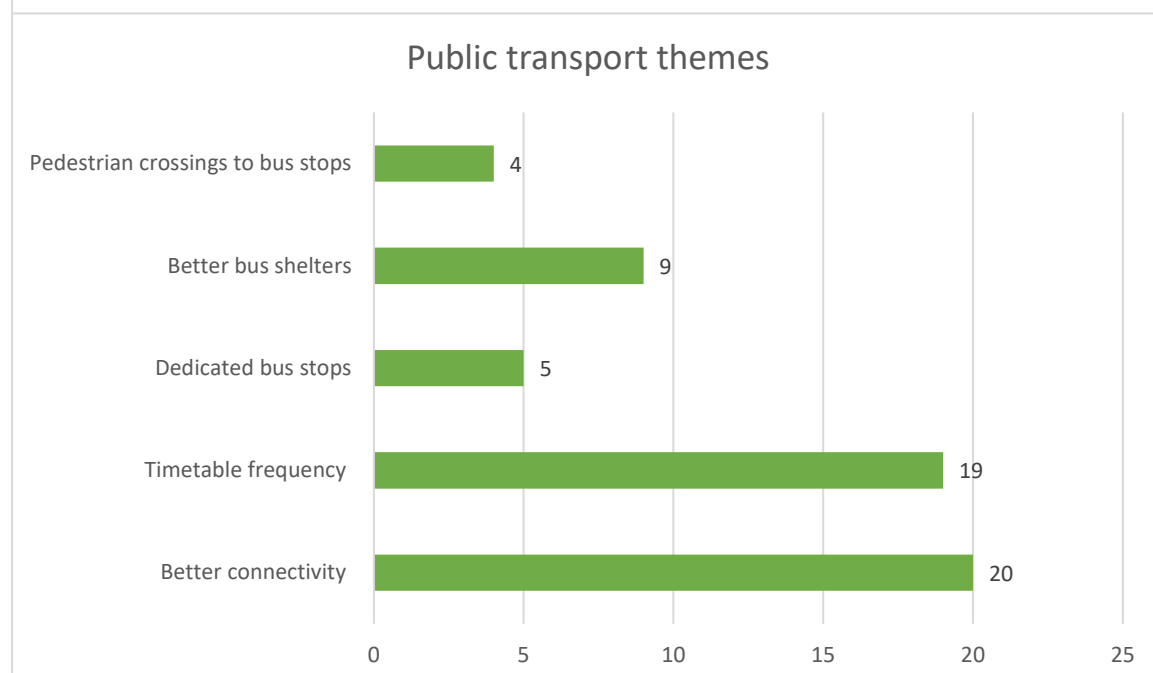
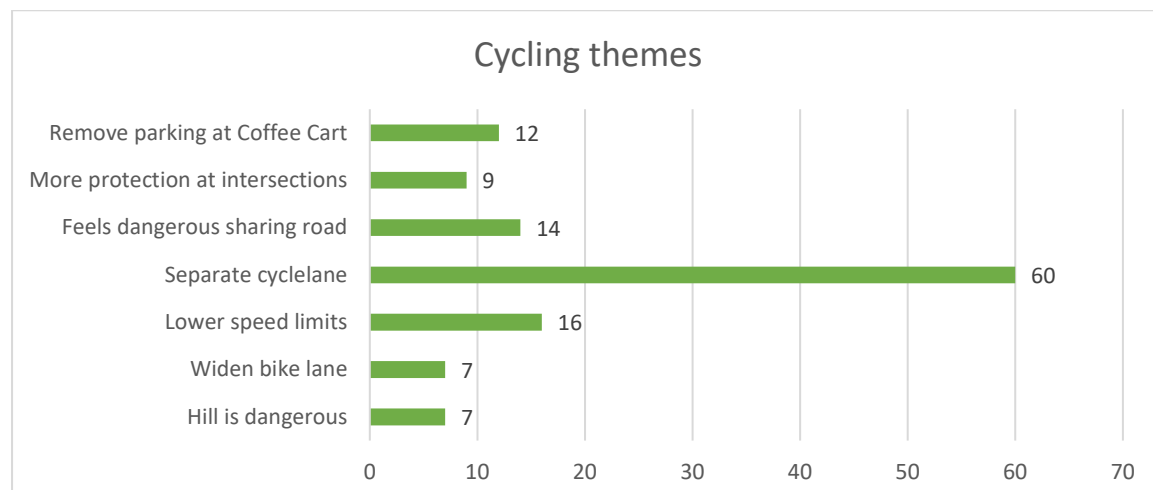
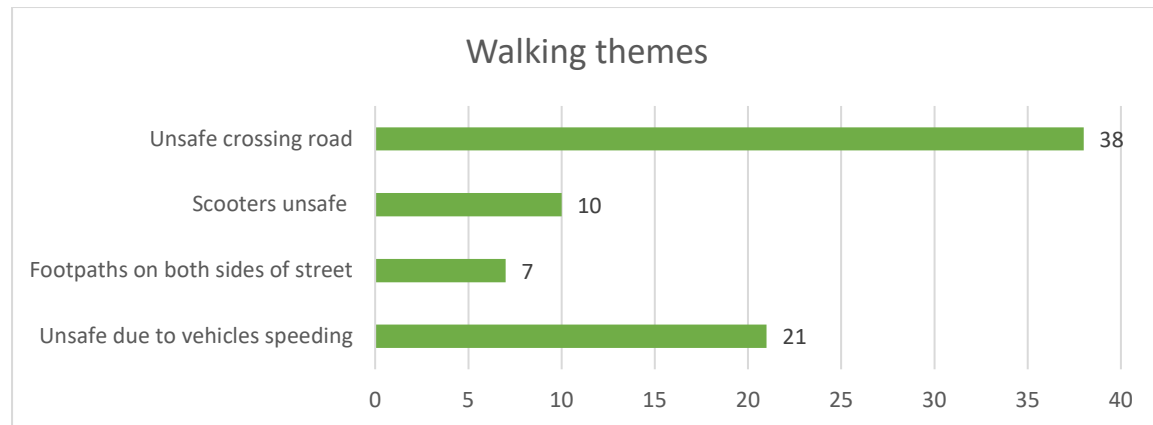
### How safe do you feel using public transport on this stretch of road?



\*Please note – Horizons Regional Council manages the bus network. We are working closely with Horizons on this project and will share the bus related feedback with them. We asked bus related

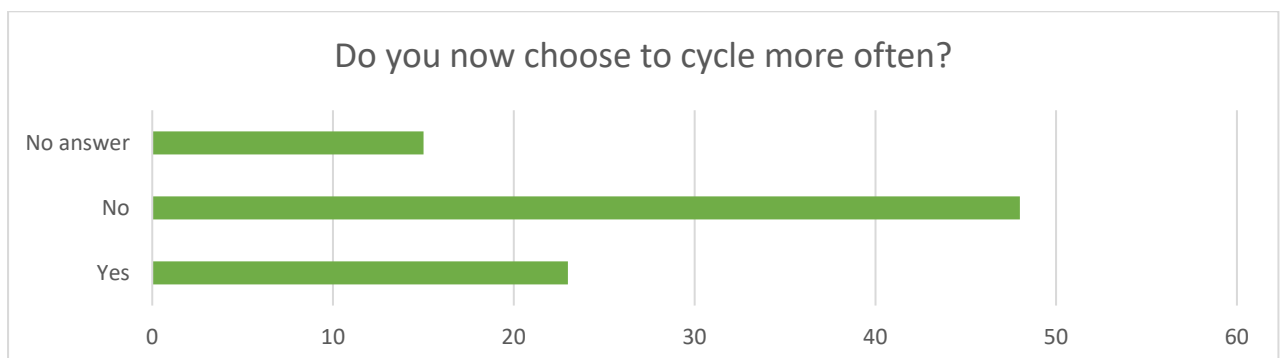
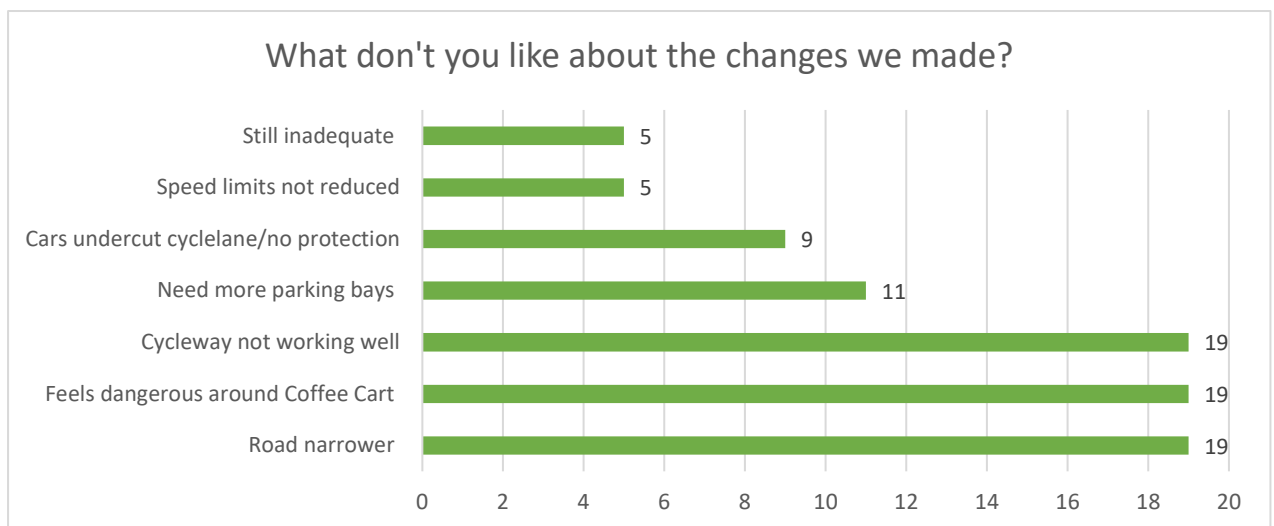
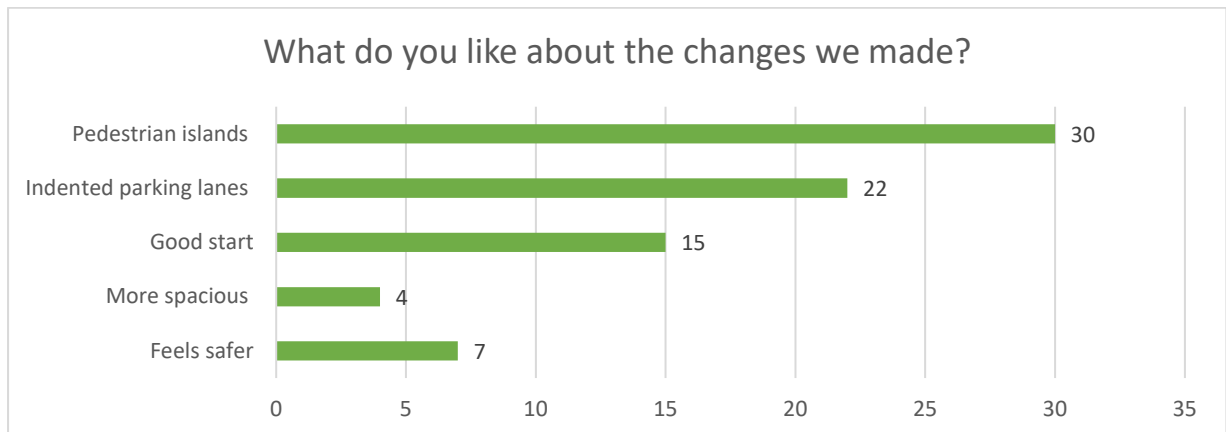
questions to ensure that the location of stops is correct, and because our council manages the bus stops/shelters.

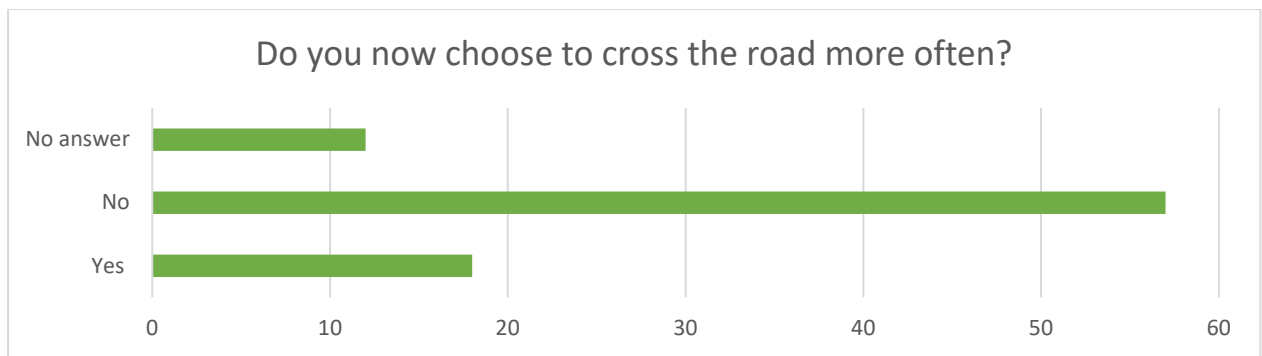
We've summarised the online submissions into key themes, along with the number of submissions that refer to each theme.





## Feedback on 2021 road changes:





## Next steps

Our team will be taking the feedback and investigating how these concerns can be addressed, where possible.

We expect to have detailed designs ready for public feedback in August 2023.

You can stay up to date with the project at [pncc.govt.nz/featherston](https://pncc.govt.nz/featherston) and [pncc.govt.nz/summerhill](https://pncc.govt.nz/summerhill).

