

Christchurch Bus Priority

Re-evaluation for BRT, HOV or LRT



Whilst rebuilding the CBD grabs our attention, reliable and sustainable transport links on arterials will be critical to our economy.

Overview

- A new agenda poses new questions about managing lanes. What, where and when?
- High occupancy & sustainable modes encouraged to benefit from lane priority
- If LRT is an end solution, planning must future proof for dedicated road space, track location or passenger facilities
- Reserving lanes for buses here has been challenging and contentious, so the wider benefits must be realistic
- The challenge is retaining and attracting businesses to form a basis for growth in transport demand, and underpin public transport system investment.

Case Studies Show...

- HOV works well in Auckland on the Northern Busway with the right design, publicity and enforcement - but would it work in Christchurch?
- Central bus lanes offer potentially better travel times & conducive to progress to an LRT end solution
- LRT/BRT has been successful in the US and Europe
- Managed lanes 'reward' sustainable travellers, though need careful design to keep buses or HOVs moving.

Corridors need the right sequence for intervention, as the city evolves.

HOV vs Bus Lanes

- HOV lanes require high enforcement to succeed
- Adding HOVs to existing Bus Lanes sends 'mixed messages' as passengers may revert to car sharing and too many HOVs delay buses!

Way Forward

If reallocating road space, look at impacts on all road users.

- Treat congested 'pinch points' to improve travel times for quick gains
- Each corridor in Christchurch is unique and needs a clear vision
- Obtain comprehensive data on traffic volumes and travel times
- Build relationships with the primary stakeholders for PT infrastructure and operation in Christchurch
- Develop the business case - look at all funding mechanisms and opportunity for Transit Oriented development
- Bus Rapid Transit might be a cost effective compromise, though all options are 'on the table'.