

Submissions received on Tennyson Street Pedestrian island improvements, August 2021

Submission ID	Is there anything we need to know before we start our work?	Name	Name of organisation and role
40917	<p>Living Streets Aotearoa represents the interests of pedestrians. Our organisation was set up as an incorporated society in 2002 with the goal to support more people walking more places more often as part of a healthy lifestyle and smart transport system. Living Streets encourages pedestrian activity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education of our society on the multiple benefits of walking (economic, health, social, safety and environmental) - supporting urban design, transport system development, road design and operation that encourage people to walk - requesting the adoption of laws that will make walking a safe (and perceived as safe) activity for both existing and would-be walkers <p>We represent the mobility, visually and cognitively impaired, the very old and the very young, people who have no other forms of transport, as well as the thousands of other New Zealanders who walk by choice or who would like to walk. Living Streets is the voice of anyone who uses the foot path -or would use a foot path if there was one - at any stage of their journey, including public transport users and people who travel by car.</p> <p>Tennyson Street - Pedestrian island improvements</p> <p>Submission from Living Streets Otautahi/Christchurch</p> <p>Living Streets does not believe that merely widening existing pedestrian islands make it safer to cross busy streets.</p> <p>If the aim of the proposed project on Tennyson Street is to encourage children- and other vulnerable people- to walk then just making the existing pedestrian refuge wider will mean the project fails. These sorts of crossings rely on users having good judgment of traffic regarding speeds, distances and driver behaviour in order to safely access the refuge. Executive functions of judgment, decision making and problem solving are underdeveloped in children and they are vital in the situations such as trying to reach a pedestrian refuge safely. Pedestrian refuge(s) of any width -with no other infrastructure- are also not helpful for people with sight impairments nor the frail, mobility impaired and elderly.</p> <p>Living Streets Otautahi/Christchurch recommends that a raised platform pedestrian priority crossing is installed on Tennyson Street near Norwood Street. While being slightly more expensive, they are practically and statistically far safer. Vulnerable road users should expect not to be threatened and discouraged, harmed or even killed when going about their business.</p> <p>The new crossing needs to be in a safer location as the current island is too close to Norwood St. Right turning traffic quickly pull into “gaps” in vehicular traffic, but often in those gaps are pedestrians, many of who include the low sighted, the children, the mum’s with prams, the elderly, in other words, our most vulnerable road users.</p> <p>If Christchurch, as a city, is going to contribute to the climate crisis then planners should be using all their tools to encourage people out of cars. This includes providing infrastructure and speed limits that make it safer to walk and cycle. The old model of road layout that ensures cars can move as fast and as easily as possible must change; we have to start prioritising people using sustainable modes. Small changes such as more raised platform pedestrian priority crossings go some way towards this, as does reducing speed limits.</p> <p>Living Streets have heard that the community would like a 40kph speed limit on Tennyson Street and we support that.</p> <p>Not providing a safe crossing for those living north of Tennyson St needing to cross towards and into Beckenham is socially inequitable and possibly racist. About a third of Beckenham School students reside north of Tennyson St in the lower socio-economic areas of Sydenham South/Waltham. Data from the Beckenham census reveal higher rates of unemployment, lower incomes and a greater proportion of Maori than those south of Tennyson in the Beckenham area. The former are the children who need to cross Tennyson St twice a day to get to Beckenham Primary or St Peter’s Catholic School. If they are discouraged to walk or cycle to school their options are, in the best-case scenario, to be driven. This adds to traffic congestion and reduces road safety. At worst, if a household does not have a reliable vehicle, children will miss out on getting to</p>	Meg Christie	Living Streets Aotearoa

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	<p>school all together, perpetuating disadvantage.</p> <p>Living Streets would also like to see cyclists on the pink off-road cycle path yield to those on foot when using the raised island crossings to make it clear that these are crossing designed for our most vulnerable in our community, not for the more dominant modes.</p> <p>Living Streets have heard from residents in the Beckenham community that they have wanted other traffic changes within the Beckenham loop to protect vulnerable road users through the recent Innovating Streets project. Unfortunately, not all the planned enhancements will be delivered. The Better Beckenham group, leading this project with their ideas of traffic calming and place making, would like to see at least three pedestrian priority crossings put in over the length of Tennyson Streets and accepts that there may be a delay in getting the further two budgeted for and delivered. Living Streets also supports this call to eventually have three crossings.</p> <p>Beckenham Park is a taonga and well patronised by many residents in the Beckenham/Sydenham South/Waltham areas. A place of beauty, with its ponds and native fauna and flora and tree lined sports ground, it provides opportunities for physical activity and mental wellbeing. Residents of Sydenham South/Waltham should not be excluded from the park due to accessibility issues.</p> <p>Summary.</p> <p>The plans to widen a pedestrian refuge will do nothing to make the road safer to cross. Consultation with the community has revealed that Tennyson St needs at least three pedestrian priority crossings e.g. raised island crossings, as well as a 40 km/h speed limit.</p> <p>Living Streets accepts that one raised island pedestrian priority crossing, replacing the plans for a wider island, should be installed in the first instance at a location further away to the east from Norwood to reduce conflict of turning traffic.</p>		
40908	The BNA does not support this proposal, see attached PDF	Dave Kelly	Beckenham Neighbourhood Association Inc
40899	<p>Whilst this is an improvement based on what is already there, this still doesn't go far enough.</p> <p>There are 121 tamariki that cross this twice daily to get to school to be educated. This shouldn't be a lottery in if they are about to be hit.</p> <p>As the Chairperson of the Beckenham Te Kura o Puroto, it will be a sad day when I am interviewed by media asking for my thoughts on the death on one of our tamariki at this crossing. After expressing my condolences to the whanau I will be pointing out that this has been a problem for a long time, it has been pointed out numerous times, made submissions on numerous times and yet the CCC still has not done enough.</p> <p>It has been noted that there has been accidents, numerous close calls and only thanks to the Local Rotary Club members recently can we have some level of protection.</p> <p>This is not good enough.</p>	Matthew Macdonald	Beckenham Te Kura O Puroto, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
40898	<p>Any improvement is positive, and this improvement still doesn't go far enough.</p> <p>At Beckenham Te Kura o Pūroto, we have 121 children, aged between 5 and 13, who cross Tennyson St twice a day to get from home to school and back again.</p> <p>Because a pedestrian island does not require traffic to stop for pedestrians, this solution/improvement still creates a very high level of risk for our tamariki.</p> <p>We would still prefer to see proper pedestrian crossings installed on Tennyson St</p>	Sandy Hastings	Beckenham Te Kura o Pūroto, Principal

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40897	<p>Please see attached my full submission and a survey and poll of local people using Tennyson Street.</p> <p>Council proposal to extend the courtesy island at Norwood Street will not address the majority of problems people experience. I do not support the current proposal.</p> <p>Please, instead, remove the Norwood Street island and invest in two raised zebra crossings placed along Tennyson Street, one close to Norwood Street (but in a better position which doesn't have the visibility issues as the current courtesy island) and one near Eastern terrace.</p> <p>Other New Zealand and overseas cities are using raised crossings as a way to promote active transport.</p> <p>Please review the survey and poll and note how the majority of people who've responded indicated a crossing with or without lights would be an appropriate solution to make Tennyson Street safer to cross.</p>	Ester Vallero	I submit as individual and part of a collective of people who use Tennyson street and have requested improvements to the crossing safety for many years, I have collated and shared local people's stories and suggestions for improvements to Tennyson street, organised meetings with other residents and Council staff and elected members
40896	<p>I want to see a raised pedestrian crossing on Tennyson Street. There are pedestrian crossings on other busy roads, for example outside of Cashmere high school on Barrington St. This is a very busy road at peak times and parents feel it is unsafe to allow their children to cross at the island. A pedestrian crossing with traffic lights would be my ideal solution.</p>	Sue Kingham	Kingham Creative
40902	<p>Tennyson Street serves many purposes - in order of approximate decreasing vulnerability it is used by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pedestrians including children of all ages and the elderly - cyclists - motorised vehicles of all sizes from Motorcycles and mopeds thru cars thru SUVs thru commercial vehicles... <p>Spokes submits that because of its many users and uses, Tennyson Street should be designed to be safe for all users, especially those who are most vulnerable (and also least able to speak for themselves) ie the young and the old.</p> <p>Traffic must be calmed - a 40kph (or even 30kph) speed limit seems more than warranted.</p> <p>We are in agreement with the submission of Meg Christie in general and in particular regarding that cyclists on the pink path yield to those on foot crossing Tennyson at any new crossing(s).</p> <p>We are also in agreement with the submission of Simon Kingham, a noted expert in the transport sector, as both a University academic and Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Transport.</p> <p>It is wonderful that CCC are assessing traffic safety on Tennyson Street. We ask that CCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - listen to the experts and local residents and us representing much of the cycling community and 	Chris Abbott	Spokes Canterbury - www.spokes.org.nz , Secretary and Submissions Convenor

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	<p>- implement a safer solution ie</p> <p>- 40kph limit</p> <p>- 3 three raised pedestrian-priority crossings (none in the currently proposed location)</p> <p>This is something that can and should be done now, rather than doing nothing and further risking injury or worse.</p>		
40909	<p>Raised Pedestrian crossings are required near the intersection with Norwood St and Eastern Tce. Ideally near Beckenham st as well.</p> <p>Pedestrian islands, no matter how large , will not overcome many of the obstacles with crossing Tennyson st that are currently present; large amounts of traffic, cyclists moving at different speeds, anticipating speed and movements of vehicles, unpredictable vehicle behaviour - some slow for you to cross but most don't.</p> <p>Accidents have already occurred and people have been injured.</p> <p>Please listen to what the community has been asking for for many years and make Tennyson St safe to cross, especially for our kids.</p>	Nicaela Davies	
40907	<p>While I agree that it is important to address the dangerous situation crossing Tennyson St, I do not think this solution is sufficient. I do not think it goes far enough to calm the very speedy traffic and doesn't really address the fact that many cars are coming from different directions and it can be confusing for children or even adults to cross safely.</p> <p>I would rather see traffic lights or well marked pedestrian crossings. I would like to see two raised crossings one near Norwood, one near Eastern Terrace.</p> <p>At the moment Tennyson Street cuts our community in two. I would not let my children (aged 10 and 12 years) cross there unsupervised in the mornings or after school as I think it is too dangerous. This would essentially force me to drive if I was not as lucky as I am to live on the South side of the road.</p> <p>Please take more action to prioritize pedestrians and bikers, therefore promoting health and the connectedness of the community.</p>	Jody Smith	
40905	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>As a local resident, I would strongly urge you to reconsider and stop widening the traffic island. This will not make crossing safer. Instead please put the funding towards a raised pedestrian crossing along tennyson for students and families to use. This would be much safer and encourage better road use by all. This is especially needed to encourage more biking and walking to school for families on the other side of Tennyson St from Beckenham school, their local. And more effectively addresses needs given the climate change emergency we are all facing. It will be better for motorists as they will know they have to stop for pedestrians, and better for pedestrians. Also much safer for people with sight or hearing problems, larger islands won't help them to cross safely.</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Katherine</p>	Katherine Christensen	
40904	<p>I support the proposal, and think it's a decent first step towards making Tennyson St more people-friendly. I'd like to see the drop-down kerbs widened so that more people can cross at once, and the gap on the refuge island similarly widened and extended so that a double pram, person on a bike, and one or two children can all stand comfortably alongside one another. The island itself should also be elongated and heightened to make it more visible, making it clear to motorists that the area is a pedestrian-priority space, and not just a temporary interruption.</p>	Finn Jackson	

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	Jumping the gun a bit because I know these are outside the scope of this project, but future steps to make Tennyson St safer and overall more pleasant should include widening and repairing damage to the footpath and cycleway, ensuring the bike sensors at the Colombo St intersection work well, improving the other pedestrian refuge islands, and lowering the speed limit to 30 or 40km/h.		
40901	<p>The proposed "slightly wider island" is inadequate and will not make it safer for children to cross Tennyson St to attend Beckenham School. Because the school zone is divided by Tennyson St, a solution that slows and stops traffic to provide safe crossing is needed. You should not have children crossing between streams of traffic moving at 50km, and a wider island will not improve this situation very much.</p> <p>International research and safety standards suggest that a raised crossing with significantly narrowed car lanes is a better solution. Car drivers do not always stop reliably at regular zebra crossings, and often see no reason to stop or slow down around the central island design you have proposed. However, raising and narrowing the road, and adding a clearly signposted pedestrian crossing would give enough signals to drivers to create a safer crossing zone for school children. A lower speed limit in the area where children are frequently present is also needed. This would cost more than the proposed solution, but would bring real safety improvements (whereas the current solution will spend Council funds for no significant benefit).</p> <p>It is also imperative that we transition to being a city that walks, cycles and takes public transport as our primary modes of transport. The draft CCC climate change strategy aims for a "Low Emissions Transport System. . . Reducing transport emissions is essential to achieve our greenhouse gas emissions targets. Christchurch has high levels of private car use and low level use of public transport." [1] This is our agreed strategy, and even this small project can make a difference by supporting safe walking across Tennyson St for the next generation of children. Stop pretending to address climate change and actually do it! Make pedestrians the priority, and slow / manage the traffic properly to allow the kids to cross safely. Please look at how crossings are done in places like the Netherlands, where they have good design for safety, and make it happen here.</p> <p>This crossing is an equity issue as well as a safety issue. You have a lower socio-economic portion of the Beckenham School roll living on the Sydenham side of Tennyson Street, and failing to provide safe crossings to school is disproportionately affecting those who have fewer options and less resources to ensure the safety of their children.</p> <p>I have been a resident in Beckenham for the past five years, and was a resident in south Sydenham for eight years before that. As someone who walks, cycles and drives around the area daily I am familiar with the hazard that Tennyson St represents.</p> <p>[1] https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Consultation/2021/03-March/STR3951-Draft-Otautahi-Christchurch-Climate-Change-Strategy-have-your-say-WEB.pdf</p>	Chris Thomson	
40900	Pedestrian island for safer crossing on Tennyson st	Yamile Torres	
40894	See attachment.	Simon Kingham	
40891	<p>Need to do more than widening the pedestrian island to make this crossing safer. This will do nothing to slow traffic on Tennyson which is a big part of the issue. Why not install a proper pedestrian crossing ? Or traffic calming measures?</p> <p>The fundamental issue though is the islands poor location right next to the intersection with Norwood that makes it dangerous for all. Would be better to move it down Tennyson. Sorry, need a better solution.</p>	Peter Dickie	
40800	<p>I fully support the proposed pedestrian island extension. I have lived in the neighbourhood for many years and have noticed the steady increase in the volume of traffic using Tennyson Street, which in turn makes it more risky for pedestrians, so anything that improves their safety is worthwhile.</p> <p>There is another safety issue that I'd like to mention which is adjacent to the pedestrian crossing, and that is where the cycle path crosses Norwood Street. On the 26th of August 2019 I was cycling west along the cycle path. It was daytime, there wasn't a lot of traffic, and I was wearing a hi-vis jacket. As I started to cross Norwood Street I became aware of a vehicle coming up behind me on my right and slowing down. I turned around and saw a large SUV was turning left into Norwood Street and was on a direct collision course with me. The driver braked when I screamed at him and so I was saved the ignominy of being knocked down and run over but it was incredibly scary. I was aware that I had the legal right of way because the cycle path extends across Norwood Street, and most motorists at this intersection are aware of it, but the path is not as conspicuous as it could be and I suspect that this could have been a factor in this incident. I am sure that originally when the path was created the street crossing would have</p>	John Easton	

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	<p>been painted red as well as having the white border stripes, but the red paint disappeared a long time ago.</p> <p>I notice on your plan of the pedestrian island extension that there will be some new road markings in the area so I thought that since there will be a road marking contractor involved, would it be possible to have the Norwood Street crossing repainted red (one or two bicycle symbols would be a bonus). Anything to increase awareness amongst motorists that this is a legal cycle path would be welcome. Thanking you in anticipation.</p>		
40722	<p>These Islands are DANGEROUS, just like the one corner pages and shortland st. Drivers ONLY care about getting from A to B, they may choose to not even be aware of pedestrians. these ISLANDS need to go, I propose putting crossings in. But do not do this on corners. Islands offer NO safety to a pedestrian with a crossing there is accepted road rules that the motorist understands</p> <p>Bower st BP is another example or why these things are full on dangerous. A disabled person can wait up to 5 minutes to cross halfway across the road, maybe 10 minutes in total, at busy times going to the doctor could take 15 to 20 to cross the road, PUT YOUR SELF IN A MANUAL WHEEL CHAIR, WITH NO ASSISTANCE FROM ANYONE ELSE, then you will maybe understand the challenge and why it is so frightening using these islands, you would then also notice the camber of the road is such you can not always see down the road due to the parked cars.</p>	Tom Smith	
40702	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>Could you please consider the below points before you start your work:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The island offers no protection from fast moving traffic. - The island is too small to accommodate pedestrians with prams, dogs, multiple children on bikes/scooters. This means some families have to make multiple trips to cross. - Cars hurtling out of Norwood St onto Tennyson St are a risk as the island is too close to the junction of both streets. Visibility is poor at this junction and it is not clear to drivers that there is an island so close to the junction. - It is not clear to cyclists using the cycle lane that pedestrians cross at that point so they do not stop or slow down for pedestrians. - Well-meaning car drivers stop for pedestrians trying to cross which misleads children into thinking cars will stop for them at all times. There is also the risk of other cars rear-ending the stopped car. - I am unsure how people with low vision or disabilities could possibly use this island to cross Tennyson St as they are offered no protection while crossing the street. <p>Thanks for your time.</p>	Julia Durie	
40699	<p>Hi there, as a driver who regularly turns right on to Tennyson from Norwood St I would like to request a better solution than simply widening the pedestrian island. It is very stressful taking this turn as there are always children crossing around the times I use the T junction and I'm constantly worried I'll not see a pedestrian. It feels like a better solution than widening the island could be introduced which would make it safer for families crossing the road and less worrying for drivers. Could an overpass work, traffic lights, a clearly marked pedestrian crossing further up the road, or paid-for lollypop people during school crossing times be other solutions considered? Surely there is a better idea out there that has the safety of the whole community in mind? Thanks for considering my submission.</p> <p>(I am member of the beckenham community (with 2 children; 4 and 6 yrs)).</p>	Roberta Thomson	
40694	<p>It is good to see that this crossing is finally being considered. However it is a pretty disappointing solution and cynically I assume that this is entirely down to saving as much money as possible and not the best solution to keep children safe.</p> <p>The community needs a really safe walking or biking route to school for children, there will be less cars on the road as well so that should help keep the drivers happy. So disappointing and I assume you will still have people complaining about this road for years and years, why can't a job just get done properly for once.</p>	Emma Wallace	

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40693	<p>I live on Tennyson St and walk my son to and from Beckenham School using the island. It is terrifying. These are the reasons why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The island offers no protection from fast moving traffic. - The island is too small to accommodate pedestrians with prams, dogs, multiple children on bikes/scooters. This means some families have to make multiple trips to cross. - Cars hurtling out of Norwood St onto Tennyson St are a risk as the island is too close to the junction of both streets. Visibility is poor at this junction and it is not clear to drivers that there is an island so close to the junction. - It is not clear to cyclists using the cycle lane that pedestrians cross at that point so they do not stop or slow down for pedestrians. - Well-meaning car drivers stop for pedestrians trying to cross which misleads children into thinking cars will stop for them at all times. There is also the risk of other cars rear-ending the stopped car. - I am unsure how people with low vision or disabilities could possibly use this island to cross Tennyson St as they are offered no protection while crossing the street. <p>I understand that people in the area have been campaigning to have this island changed since 2014. I would like to plead with you to please do something more than simply widen the island. I have seen so many near-misses and it's really scary. It does not encourage our children to walk to school as they just don't feel safe. This seems counterintuitive at a time when we should be discouraging car usage.</p> <p>A friend and her children came to my house after school one day and she brought her cargo bike. She was unable to cross at the island as it would not accommodate her bike nor could she get across Tennyson St as the traffic was so backed up on the south side and moving too quickly on the north. She then had to cycle all the way to Colombo St to cross and come halfway back down Tennyson St. Meanwhile I had to then try to cross Tennyson St using the island with four busy children! How on earth does this encourage people not to use their cars?</p> <p>Widening the island will not resolve the majority issues I outline above. Yes, it will be able to accommodate more people but that is all. These people will still not be offered any more protection while crossing Tennyson Street. The location and design of the island is unsuitable and Tennyson St is an exceptionally busy road at peak times. Please reconsider redirecting the money allocated towards removing the island and create a new raised pedestrian crossing with signage for both cars and cyclists on the Colombo St side of Norwood Street. This change will revolutionise the space and resolve the issues I outline. This really is a chance to do something wonderful for the neighbourhood and enable our tamariki to be able to walk safely to their local primary school which is surely a basic right.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Michael Newland	
40692	<p>I live on Tennyson St and walk my son to and from Beckenham School each day using the island. It is terrifying. These are the reasons why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The island offers no protection from fast moving traffic. - The island is too small to accommodate pedestrians with prams, dogs, multiple children on bikes/scooters. This means some families have to make multiple trips to cross. - Cars hurtling out of Norwood St onto Tennyson St are a risk as the island is too close to the junction of both streets. Visibility is poor at this junction and it is not clear to drivers that there is an island so close to the junction. - It is not clear to cyclists using the cycle lane that pedestrians cross at that point so they do not stop or slow down for pedestrians. 	Julie Newland	

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40613	<p>Good first move with the speed reduction in the Beckenham loop.</p> <p>Now go the next step and make this a full zebra crossing, this would be a huge step towards a safer Christchurch for our young students of Beckenham School and the rest of the area, why not do the same at the other island closer to Eastern Terrace. Just look at the number for the intersection of Tennyson and Colombo back in 2017 date showed that over a 5 hour period 2,208 vehicles moved west on Tennyson and 1,778 turned off Colombo onto Tennyson heading east, that was back in 2017 with 4 years of growth on top of this now. I have waited for long periods to cross this road going and coming from school with my 5 year old son.</p> <p>Please do the right thing for my child and the hundred plus others, remember one might be yours or a friends. Just think how you would feel if you could have done more but chose NOT too.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>P.S I do not make submissions so this is a huge deal for me to speak up, please treat my kids life with care.</p>	JEREMY TAYLOR	
40601	<p>Simply widening the crossing is not enough. If the CCC want to encourage parents to walk their children to school, instead of driving them, then the CCC needs to use our rates to make the route feel safe.</p> <p>Sadly, a set of traffic lights is required.</p>	Ross Mackintosh	
40600	<p>Widening the island is a good start, but a pedestrian crossing is what's needed at the very least. This is such a major route to school for many people and is so unsafe. Particularly at times of the time day when the sun is low and firing straight into the eyes of drivers. Cars simply do not slow down despite the signs asking them to during school hours.</p>	Kate Stallworthy	
40598	<p>This should be a pedestrian priority ('zebra') crossing. Given the average Christchurch driver, deeming the existing situation a 'Safe Route To School' borders on criminal incompetence (and I don't even have kids). I'm serious. Check the H&S @ Work Act. Here's hoping you rectify it. Cheers.</p>	Kieron Thorpe	
40595	<p>I have just received notice of changes to parking outside our house 108 Tennyson Street.</p>	Fiona Taylor	

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	<p>I was somewhat surprised that this was the first time I heard of this proposal and to see my house number on the literature. However, I understand the need for safer school crossings.</p> <p>I am assuming there would be greater signage near the crossing as even this narrow crossing is hit fairly often. Personally I would appreciate a reduced speed limit on this road anyway.</p> <p>I am a teacher and twice a week run a road patrol on Heaton Street. We have numerous near misses on this street and yet all requests to improve this crossing have not resulted in any changes by the council. Safety sight-lines and signage are all appalling.</p> <p>You are asking for information, however ,it seems to be a 'done deal'.</p> <p>is the construction going to affect access to our house?</p>		
40594	I believe a pedestrian crossing would be a better solution than merely increasing the size of the island.	Sheryl Porter	
40593	Pedestrian crossing would make more sense and make it safer for children to cross. Traffic comes to a full stop rather than children trying to make a decision if there's enough time to safely cross, I have seen children think there's time almost get hit!! Please don't make a child get hit or worse before you decide to put a crossing in, please don't make it the ambulance at the button of the cliff scenario, children have the right to get to school safely.	Sarah Hunt	
40592	Extending the pedestrian island will not solve the main problem, which is the confusing and unsafe nature of pedestrian islands. A proper pedestrian crossing would be much safer and allow children to get to school without being endangered by a difficult street to cross. I have lived in the area and have had three children regularly using that crossing to get to school.	Matthew Reid	
40590	This is the crossing I use with my 10 year old daughter every school day to get to Beckenham school. I'm nervous everytime we cross and I'm not sure if I will ever feel comfortable with her crossing here by herself in it's current form. Not only do you have to make sure it's clear of traffic on Tennyson Street but also cars turning right out of Norwood Street, who are often just looking for cars, not pedestrians. It's too close to that intersection and really needs to be a pedestrian crossing or lights to make this safer for our children.	Tracy Roberts	
40589	I cross Tennyson St twice a day taking my 5 and 6 year old to school on their scooters and always feel very unsafe doing so. Improving the size of the island is a good start but I feel the improvements should go further to provide safety for pedestrians. The only way we get across particularly in the mornings is by cars stopping to let us across which is very helpful but causes some confusion for children. I think a pedestrian crossing would be the best solution, especially one with a traffic light so children could wait and cross in a group which would probably cause less disruption to traffic.	Emily Simpson	
40588	<p>Traffic lights at the Norwood/Tennyson intersection would be the safest option as a refuge is so dangerous for unaccompanied children and too difficult to manage for mothers with prams or kids on bikes.</p> <p>Lights would also create a break in traffic for the other difficult intersection at the Heathcote River Bridge on Tennyson St where it is actually a 6-road intersection! That point would benefit from a raised painted speed hump that covers the whole area.</p>	Wendy Dudson	
40587	I would rather have a proper pedestrian crossing as even with a bigger island there is no way I would let my children cross over on there own. Do it properly now before a child gets badly hurt.	Caroline McKean	
40586	<p>Hello</p> <p>It is great to see there is a commitment to making this area safer for pedestrians. It is a really busy area with lots of young families and a nearby school.</p> <p>My thinking is that widening the existing island is likely to be an expensive option that is likely to be far less effective than options that ensure traffic speed reduction.</p> <p>We are wanting to encourage alternative forms of transport in our city, and continuing to prioritise vehicle traffic by making decisions that intentionally prioritise the needs of drivers by using options that enable them to continue to drive with little consideration of pedestrians and cyclists is sending the wrong message. This is likely to result in more parents driving their children to school as it feels like the safer option. Please make a stand about the importance of our environment, the importance of tamariki and other pedestrian's safety, the importance of physical wellbeing, by choosing options that prioritise these things - rather than those that prioritise driver "needs".</p>	Kelly Dorgan	

Submissions received on Tennyson Street Pedestrian island improvements, August 2021

Submission ID	Is there anything we need to know before we start our work?	Name	Name of organisation and role
	I would like to see a speed-reducing option implemented in Tennyson Street rather than a widening of the current option that feels unsafe and unsatisfactory to many parents and pedestrians in order to future-proof this space in keeping with our community goals.		
40585	Needs to be a safer place to cross	Sophie Mann	
40584	Traffic lights need to be installed it is not just pedestrians that are at risk here cyclists and other motorists also have risk factors here	Jacinta Gubb	
40583	Just put a simple zebra crossing there. Even trial it for a year! Done.	Richard Howard	
40582	My husband and I have lived at [redacted] Tennyson Street for over 40 years and have always wondered why an island was put by 102 Tennyson Street. There are more accidents on our side of Tennyson Street at this crossing than there are on the southern side. Cars coming from Norwood Street usually speed up when making a right turn onto Tennyson Street and as the island is so close to the corner, many nearly lose control trying to get through safely without hitting the curb or a parked car. Over the years we have seen many accidents because of this, and unfortunately several children were injured in some way, a couple seriously. The majority of accidents have happened on our side of Tennyson Street, not the other side (children have to cross the road on the way to school as well as on their way home)!! Widening the island to allow more children to stand in the centre of the road will not make any difference! There is already an island a couple of houses down the road towards Southampton Street (outside 111 Tennyson). If children live on the east side of Norwood Street, it would be safer for them to use that crossing, rather than the one closest to Norwood Street. We suggest you move that island to the other side of the intersection (near 98 Tennyson Street) as left turning cars would not be speeding to get round the corner. Pedestrians would then have the option of using either crossing. It would be safer for children living on the western side of Norwood Street to cross down near Sandwich Road, walk on the west side of Norwood, then use the island near 98 Tennyson Street. Children living on the eastern side of Norwood Street would use the island closer to Southampton Street. I hope you consider our suggestion.	Cheryl and Graham McNickel	
40581	SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC AT SCHOOL TIMES. THE EXISTING SIGNS ARE TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE. TRAFFIC ISLANDS ARE UNSAFE AND CROSSING WOULD BE PREFERABLE. ALREADY A TRICKY INTERSECTION AT BUSY TIMES WITH CARS TURNING.	Jill Nugent	
40580	MAKE TRAFFIC LIGHTS!!! as a kid that used to cross there on the way to primary and now an older sibling having my brothers cross there I know how damn scary it is! Lights would allow it to be so much safer for children of all ages and adults too! It's also make it easier for cyclists and cars to move around that Norwood - Tennyson intersection! Lights please!!!	Ailie Robertson	
40579	After witnessing and being part of so many near misses . I am glad this is FINALLY being addressed properly.	Adrienne Maule	
40578	As a parent i do worry about the safety of children crossing at this point. I believe they struggle to judge the speed of cars turning from Norwood onto Tennyson, plus some cars turn very quickly to fit into traffic flow. This increases the chance of children being hit. Also a danger point is some cars stop to let children cross but others don't. My children struggle to know if a slowing car means they should cross. We've taught them to wait to see if the car completely stops before they step onto the road. This isn't safe for other travelling traffic. Also when my children were young and I had to cross with a buggy and a toddler the space in the middle could be very tight and scary. Why can't a crossing with lights be put in this area meaning when to cross would be clear for everyone, there would be no pause in the middle of the road and traffic would flow rather than some cars stopping and some not.	Carolyn Aitken	
40577	The speed limit should be lowered on Tennyson Street as well. Also at bridge over Heathcote river is a problem to cross. 4 roads with cars turning in & out of, off Tennyson Street. As a dog walker this is a very busy intersection.	Joanne Bos	
40576	I turn right out of norwood st onto Tennyson every morning taking my children to school. It is very difficult to turn right at this time of day due to traffic. Trying to accommodate ensure pedestrian safety can be tricky. Another consideration is that for a few months each year it has the sun blinding me as I turn. I literally cannot see as I turn right. I would suggest moving the crossing 50 meters down Tennyson so that their is not a lot going on. The paedistrians are safer if not worrying about traffic turning in and out of norwood. Easier for drivers to right turn out of norwood if not waiting for pedestrians (often little kids on bikes and buggies etc). If 50mtr further down, I think it would improve.	Melisa Zinzan	
40575	We need a pedestrian crossing here, the traffic is heavy and the bike lane is busy. So.many near misses and bike /kid collisions occur and not reported. Please make this crossing safer for our tamariki.	Colleen Eason	

Submissions received on Tennyson Street Pedestrian island improvements, August 2021

Submission ID	Is there anything we need to know before we start our work?	Name	Name of organisation and role
40574	This island needs to be either a pelican crossing or better still a traffic light crossing. It see's way more pedestrian traffic than it can cope with. Mostly school time, which ironically has the most impatient drivers coming out of Norwood St turning right. A traffic lighted crossing would be safer, slow traffic and also create a point for traffic to turn right from Norwood, easing traffic flow from their too. Two problems addressed by one change.	Ewen Robertson	
40573	Pop design	Andrew Male	
40572	Please consider an actual crossing as well as the lower speed limit...these crossings in the middle of the road are horrendous, standing there in the middle of the road, like a sardines in a can, hoping the kids dont trip and fall into the middle of the road. Cars dont know whether they are meat to stop or not, so neither do the pedestrians, especially kids...these types of crossings need to be fazed out, they aren't an ideal way to cross a road. The pressure to get across the road while standing in the middle of it is awful, and then if a car stops you feel pressured to go, even if a cyclist is coming..and kids dont realise about watching out for the cyclists as well or the impatient car that wants to pass the car that has stopped on the inside of the lane...this happened to me and my child almost got hit, well all of us nearly got hit, it terrified my kids for a looong time! I wait with bated breath every day hoping my daughter makes it home safely from school! She told me how scared she gets with buses and trucks flying past!	Elizabeth O'connor	
40571	A pedestrian crossing would surely be a better solution. Cars need to stop there to let school children safely cross.	Kate Collins	
40570	This is not suitable for the road and the issues getting across Tennyson. Please slow the traffic and add something more substantial like a button, lights crossing or raised crossing. So many people drive to school in Beckenham School zone because they can't get over this road the speed of the road and how fast the traffic is moving is the cause of increased car use and carbon emissions for short trips. We wont meet our climate change targets if you don't make it safer and inviting to make our short trips by foot or bike. I think the CCC design team don't have enough experience crossing busy roads with children and are designing these roads for cars. Have the CCC design team tried to get across here with two kids and a pram? Its frightening using pony crossings with kids and they just don't allow for kids to makes mistakes, thus they can't learn to get to school without the car. I think its too much to ask children to use this crossing (even a this very poor a little wider 'new' option) and you have put the convenance of car drivers over the safety of children. Please put children/pedestrians first (over cars).	Marise Richards	
40569	Having used that crossing for the last 17 years with 3 children, 2 dogs, various prams, bikes and scooters, I firmly believe that a full zebra crossing is needed rather than an island crossing. Stopping vehicles is not compulsory at island crossings, and there are young children crossing independently there every day - particularly before and after school. These children are often too young to be aware of the speed of vehicles and are often too small to be seen clearly behind the parked vehicles. I do agree with removing the carparks near to the crossing.	Tanya Robertson	
40568	I think slowing the speed, actually enforcing it and putting it some decent crossings that motorists will be forced to slow down for would have a better effect.	Jason Griffin	

Submission #40573

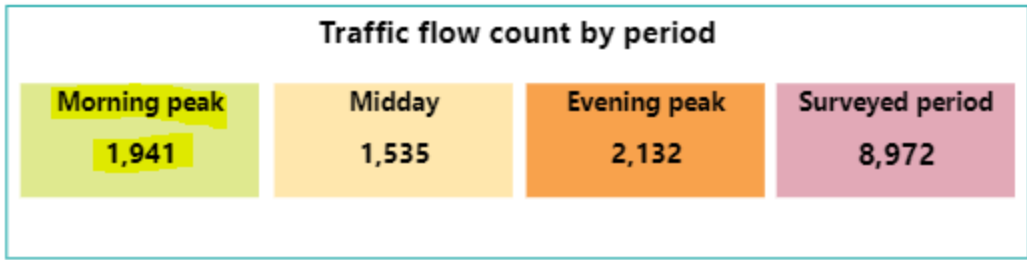
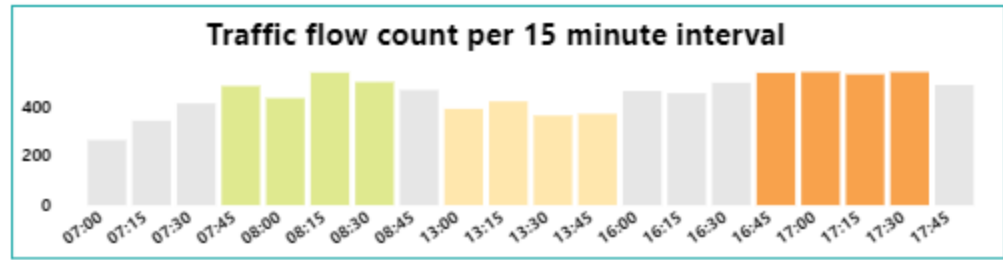
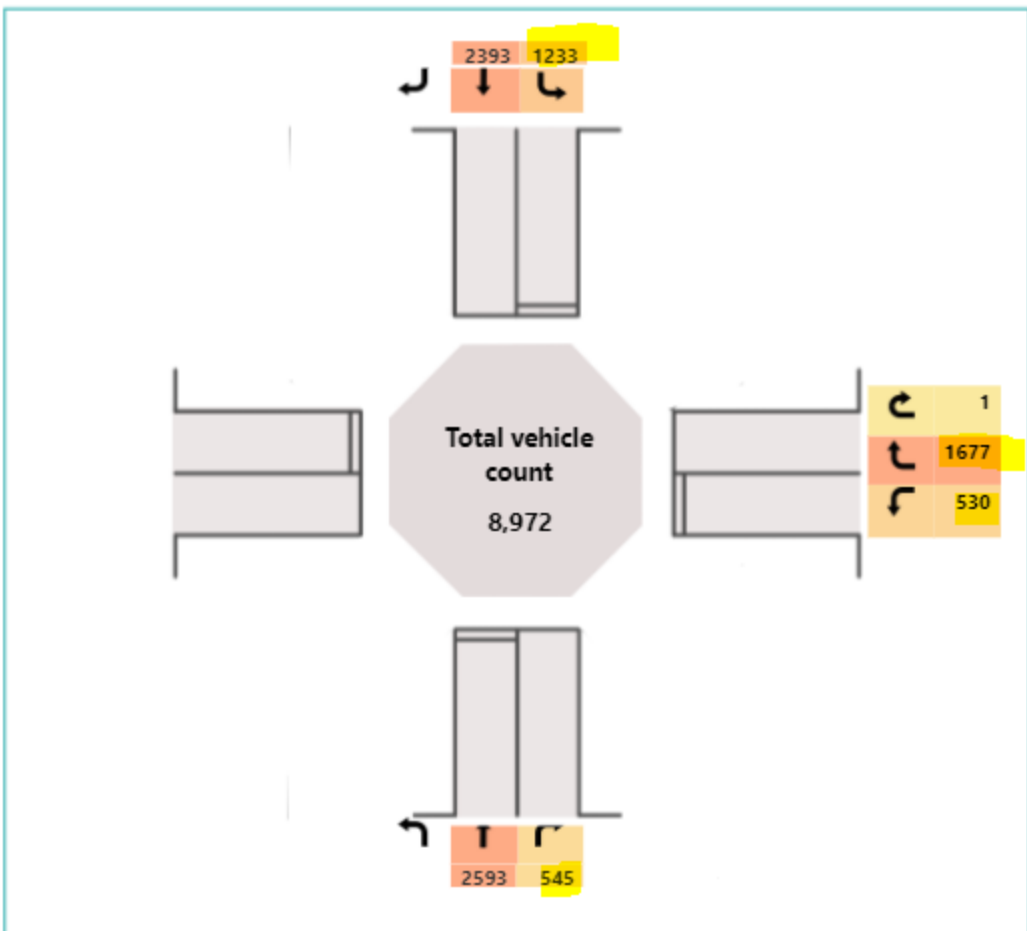
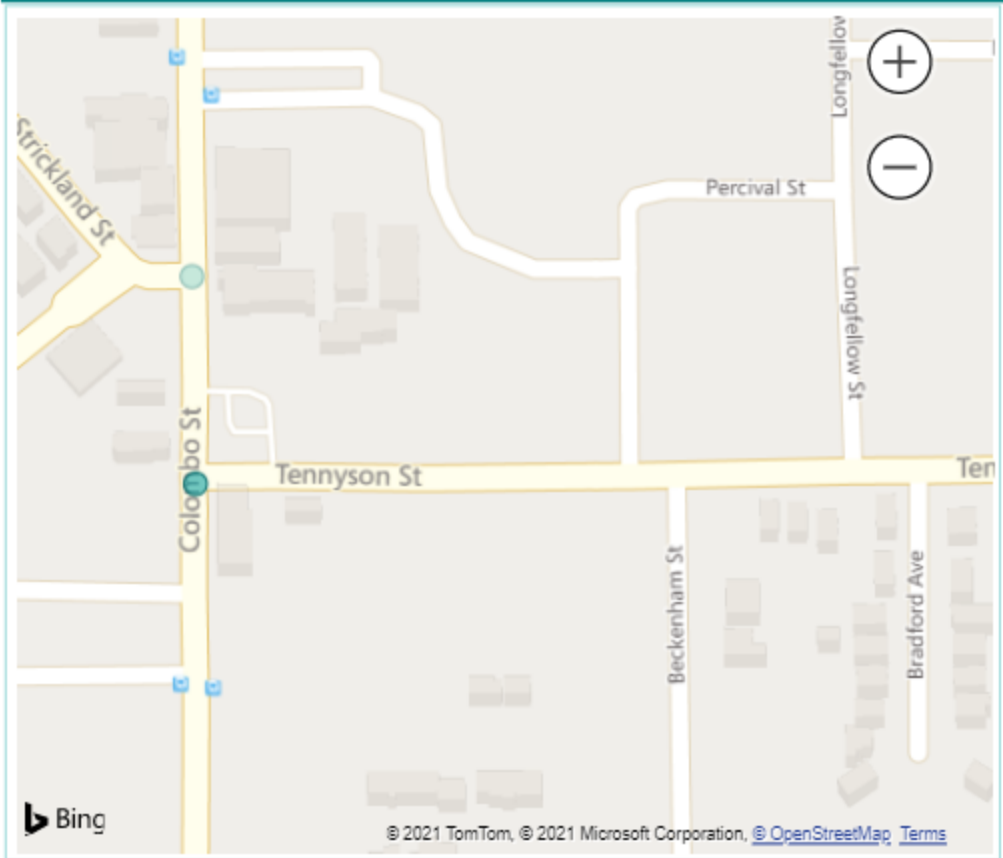


- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021

- Light vehicles
- Other vehicles
- Bicycles on road

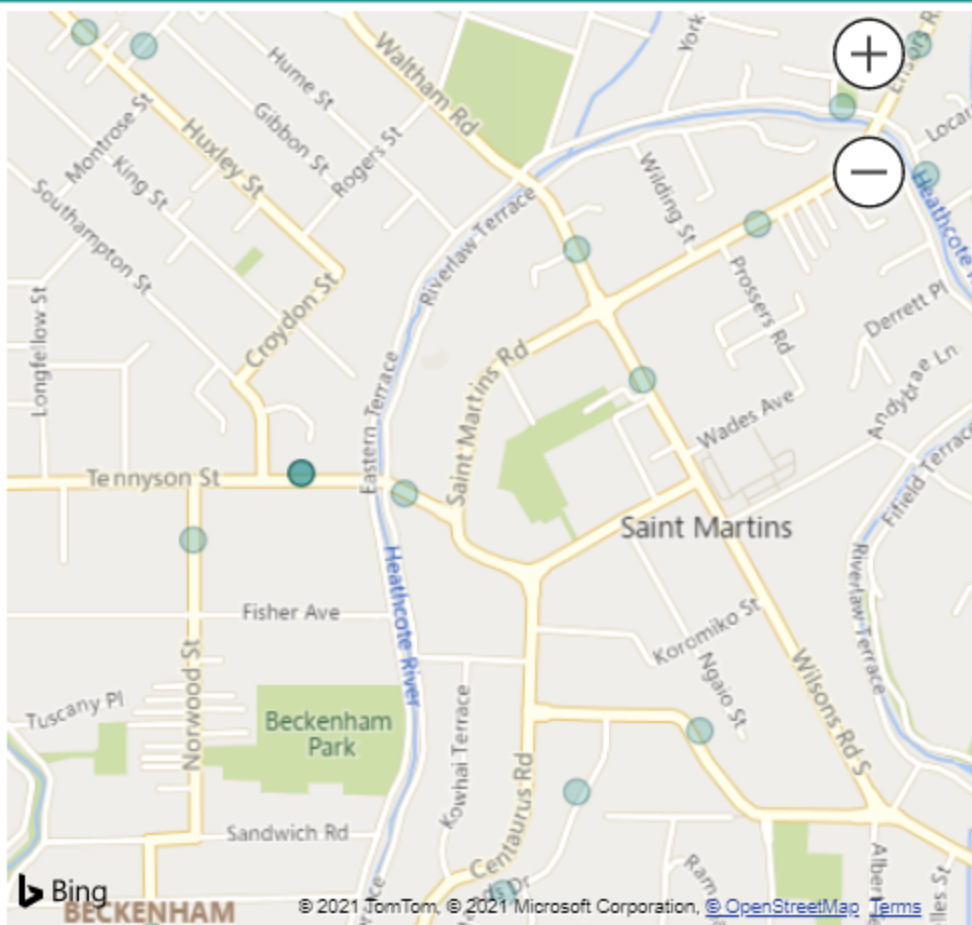
- Surveyed period
- Morning peak
- Midday
- Evening peak

13006 : Colombo / Tennyson : 29/06/2017



L0406 : Latest count 25/08/2017

Primary direction : Tennyson St Southampton St to Eastern Tce @ #127

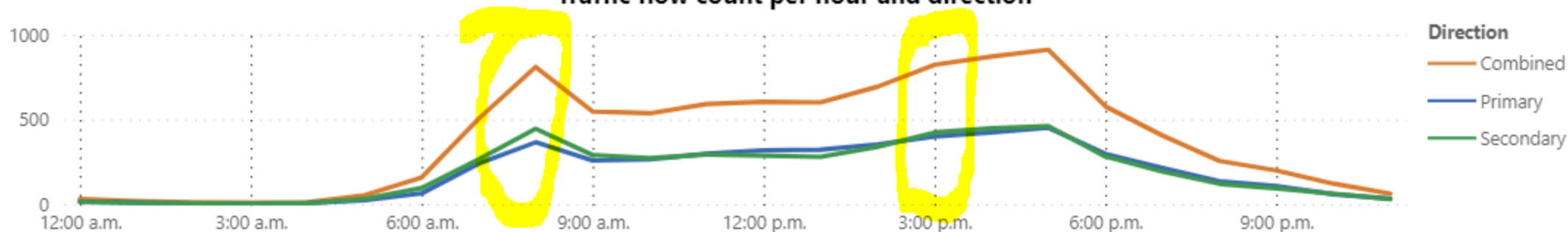


Combined direction : Average daily traffic : 9,397			
Avg weekday traffic	Avg weekend traffic	Avg speed	85 percentile speed
9,993	7,908	47.7	52.9
Heavy vehicle %	Morning peak hour	Midday	Evening peak hour
4.1	810	601	911

Primary direction : Average daily traffic : 4,658			
Avg weekday traffic	Avg weekend traffic	Avg speed	85 percentile speed
4,949	3,930	47.7	52.9
Heavy vehicle %	Morning peak hour	Midday	Evening peak hour
3.4	365	322	451

Secondary direction : Average daily traffic : 4,739			
Avg weekday traffic	Avg weekend traffic	Avg speed	85 percentile speed
5,044	3,978	47.7	52.6
Heavy vehicle %	Morning peak hour	Midday	Evening peak hour
4.7	445	279	460

Traffic flow count per hour and direction



Tennyson Street - Pedestrian island improvements

Submission by Simon Kingham, 15-08-2021

The council proposal is to widening “*the existing pedestrian island to make it safer to cross Tennyson Street near Norwood Street*”. Widening an island will be a complete waste of ratepayers money. It is not going to help anyone. The Council needs to the job properly and provide a safe pedestrian priority crossing. In the long term Tennyson St at least needs three pedestrian priority crossings and a slower speed limit (40 km/h). In addition the location of the current island as proposed is unsafe, located so close to the junction of Norwood St, and multiple near misses have been reported.

Why not islands. Islands will not encourage parents to go walk or cycle to school as they still rely on children being able to judge traffic (which many cannot especially at younger ages), and/or cars to voluntarily stop. The latter, while kind of some drivers, is inherently dangerous, as it creates uncertainty, and thus danger. The argument will be made that pedestrian crossings are statistically unsafe. Perhaps statistically in that pedestrian injuries increase at them, but this is partly a statistical fallacy in that pedestrian crossings encouraging people to walk and thus cross the road. Inevitably there are pedestrians hit by cars, as the total number of pedestrians’ increases. It doesn’t mean they are more dangerous, it just means they encourage more people to walk. But we also know that car drivers don’t slow for regular pedestrian crossings. So put a **raised platform pedestrian priority crossing** in, these are practically and statistically far safer. Yes, they are slightly more expensive, but surely our tamariki and mokopuna are worth it.

Climate crisis. In addition, we are in a climate crisis. We need to encourage people out of cars, and that includes making it safer to walk and cycle. We can’t keep prioritising keeping cars moving; we have to start prioritising people. This small change can be a small step in the right direction.

Social equity. There is a genuine social equity issue here. The Beckenham School zone sees approximately 1/3rd of the zone north of Tennyson St (Sydenham South census area), so children living here need to cross Tennyson St twice a day. We should be encouraging these children to walk and cycle to school. A series of safe crossings will provide that encouragement. In addition the community north of Tennyson St has higher rates of unemployment, lower incomes and a greater proportion of Maori that those south of Tennyson (Beckenham census area). Not providing a safe crossing for those living north of Tennyson St is socially inequitable and arguably racist.

	Beckenham	Sydenham South
Total population	2,403	2,787
Māori	150	231
% Māori	6.2	8.3
% Unemployed	2.5	4.3
Median income	\$39,000	\$30,900
% income over \$70k	25.3	12.1

Source: Statistics NZ.

Summary.

The plans to widen an island will do nothing to make the road safer to cross. All it will do is anger the local community and waste ratepayers money. And this is a community who already feel hugely let down by the Council’s mishandling of the Beckenham *Innovating Streets* project.

Ultimately Tennyson St needs at least **three pedestrian priority crossings** e.g. raised island crossings, and a **40 km/h speed limit**.

In the short term and being aware of what is budgeted for this project, please replace plans for a wider island with a **raised island pedestrian priority crossing** in a safer location.

Appendix: Context of my submission

I am a Beckenham resident who lives in the vicinity of the proposed island. My submission is based on this but also on my professional expertise.

I am a Professor of Geography at the University of Canterbury where he has been for the past 21 years; I previously held similar posts in the UK. I was also a member of the Regional Transport Committee (and its predecessor, the Regional Land Transport Committee) from 2002 to 2016; and was on the Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Forum. I research and teach on urban issues specifically transport and health, and have developed international reputations in these fields and have published widely on a variety of funded research projects. In addition I teach on a number of topics related to sustainable transport on a range of courses. This combination of in-depth up-to-date research and the broader knowledge required for teaching means I have a great deal of expertise on issues relating to urban transport. More information about this be found at:

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/contact-us/people/simon-kingham.html>

In addition for the past three years I have been seconded two days a week from the University to the Ministry of Transport as their **Chief Science Advisor**. This job entails me advising Ministry of Transport officials and ministers on the evidence base of their policies. I know something about transport.

Tēnā koe,

I have been part of the Sydenham/Beckenham community since 2006. I used to live in Sydenham on Roxburgh street, and my kids went to preschool, kindy and then school in Beckenham.

For about six years I crossed Tennyson Street at the Norwood street courtesy island every weekday, twice a day, with a varying number of children, pushchairs, bikes or scooters. The preschool and kindy (Cherry's and Kidsfirst on Fisher ave) and school (Beckenham Te Kura o Pūroto to) my kids attended support active transport and encourage families to support their children to walk scoot and bike to school.

When we moved to the City Centre in 2018, the kids remained at Beckenham Te Kura o Pūroto and have been going to school by bus + scooter/skateboard most days since.

In 2015 one of my kids crossed before I could stop him, while I was trying to hold on to my other two and their scooters on the island, and was missed by a speeding car by a couple of lucky seconds.

At the school gate, debriefing with other parents, I found out that I was not the only person who dreaded crossing that street.

Near misses like ours were common and many others felt it was not a safe crossing.

We started talking about it and asked for advice to Council staff and elected members and we were told to make a deputation to the Community board.

We put out a survey (attached) in 2016 and we presented the results to the Community Board in 2018, and many more times after that, in various meetings with many residents, Council staff, Council elected members, the local MP and many others.

The survey has remained opened until now and recent respondents report the same issues as the previous years' ones.

Of 131 respondents:

56 cross Tennyson to go to school

27 to go to local shops

14 to go to work

12 to see friends and whānau

96 reported feeling a bit or very unsafe when crossing Tennyson Street.

92 report having had or seen an unsafe crossing experience

84 gave detailed description of these experiences

116 want to see changes to Tennyson Street and only 6 did not want to see any changes

92 gave detailed suggestions about what kind of solution would address the problems they experience and would make them feel safe.

Most suggestions mention zebra crossings with or without lights and the removal of the courtesy islands.

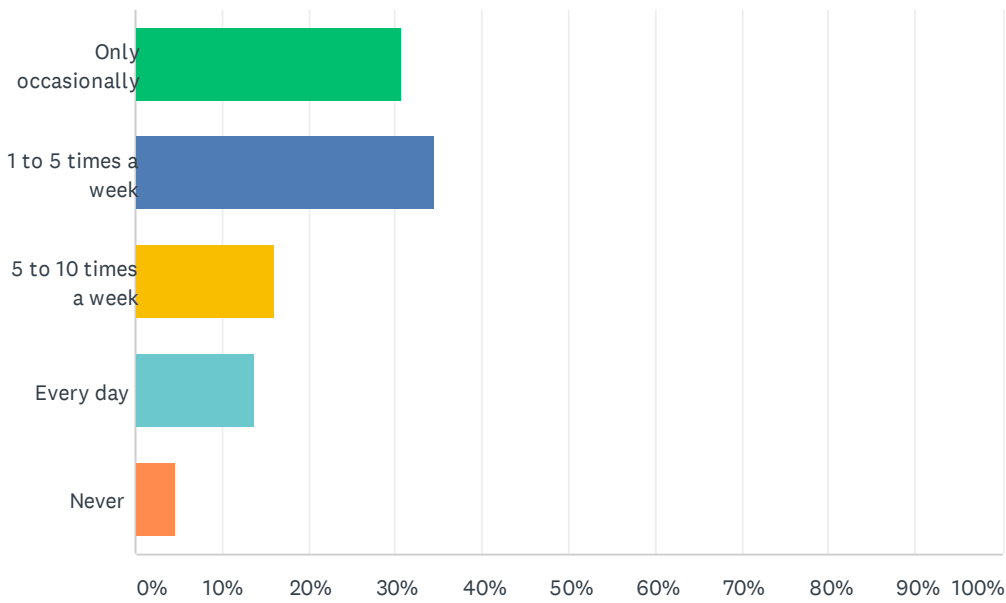
Please take time to read each person's story as part of this submission.

In July 2021 I did another quick poll on Facebook to see what would make people feel safe crossing Tennyson street

138 people voted two or more pedestrian crossings on Tennyson

Q1 How often do you cross Tennyson street at a courtesy crossing (e.g. raised island)

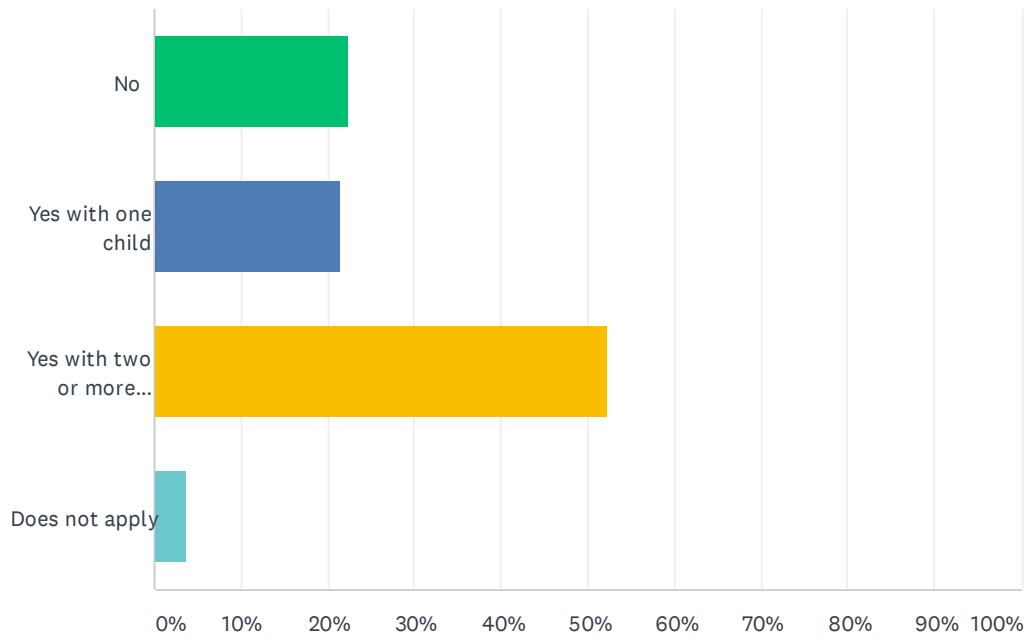
Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Only occasionally	30.77%	40
1 to 5 times a week	34.62%	45
5 to 10 times a week	16.15%	21
Every day	13.85%	18
Never	4.62%	6
Total Respondents: 130		

Q2 Do you cross Tennyson street with children?

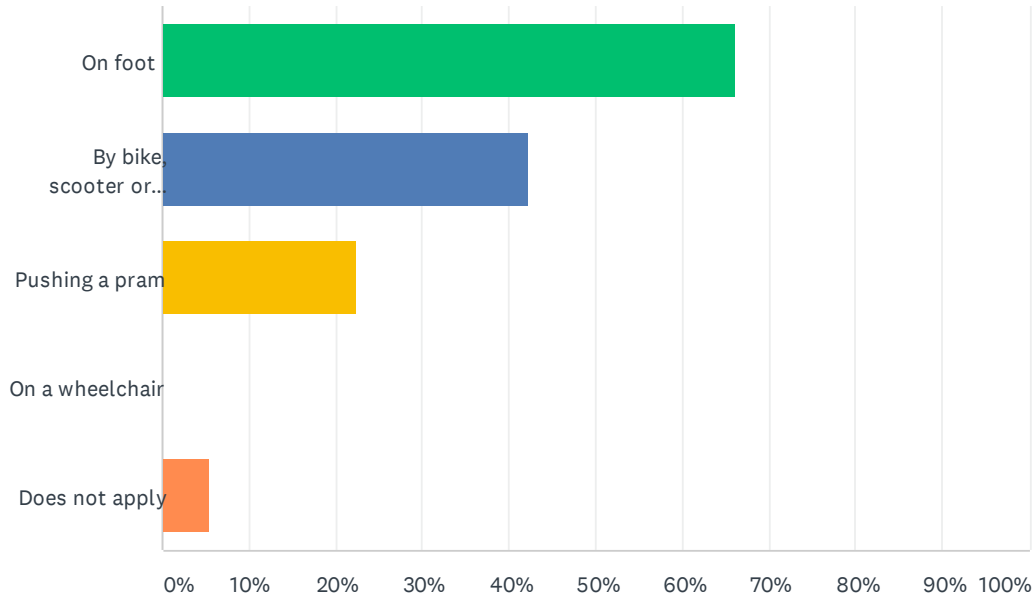
Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	22.31%	29
Yes with one child	21.54%	28
Yes with two or more children	52.31%	68
Does not apply	3.85%	5
TOTAL		130

Q3 Do you cross Tennyson street mostly

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



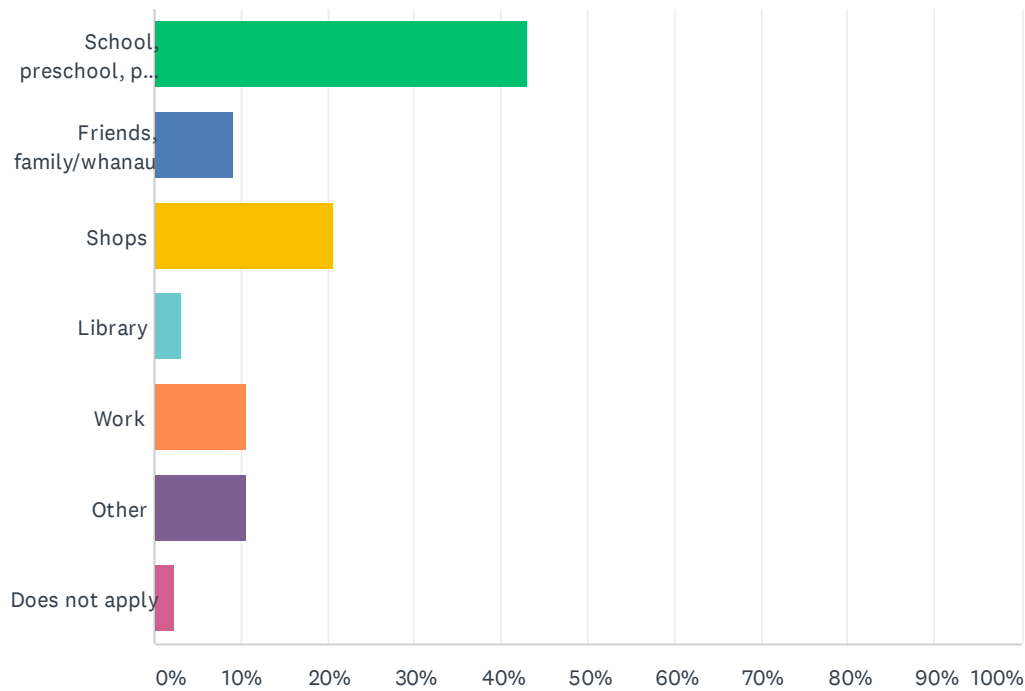
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
On foot	66.15%	86
By bike, scooter or skateboard	42.31%	55
Pushing a pram	22.31%	29
On a wheelchair	0.00%	0
Does not apply	5.38%	7
Total Respondents: 130		

Q4 Can you tell us about yourself please: in which neighborhood you live in and your age. Thank you!

Answered: 130 Skipped: 0

Q5 What is your most common destination?

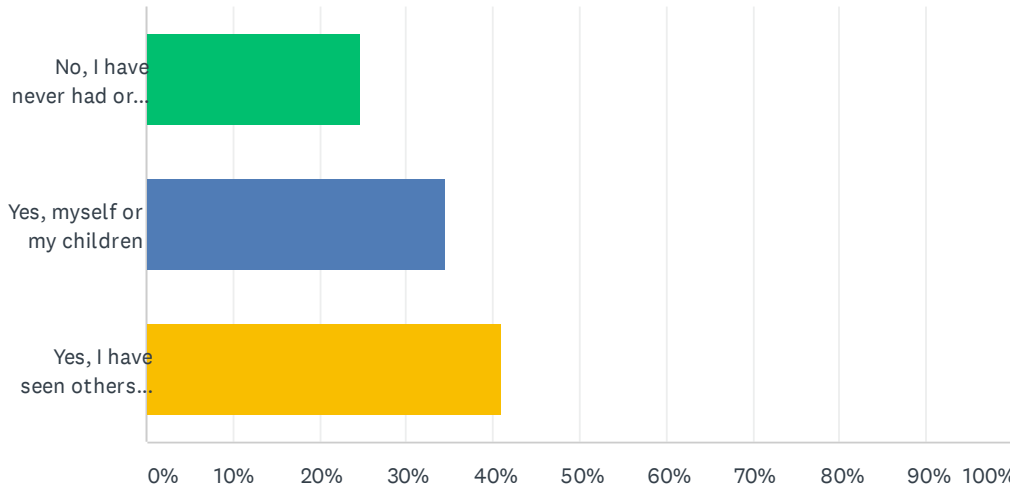
Answered: 130 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
School, preschool, play centre, kindy	43.08%	56
Friends, family/whanau	9.23%	12
Shops	20.77%	27
Library	3.08%	4
Work	10.77%	14
Other	10.77%	14
Does not apply	2.31%	3
TOTAL		130

Q6 Have you or a member of your family ever had a bad personal experience crossing Tennyson street, or seen anybody else crossing Tennyson street and being unsafe?

Answered: 122 Skipped: 8



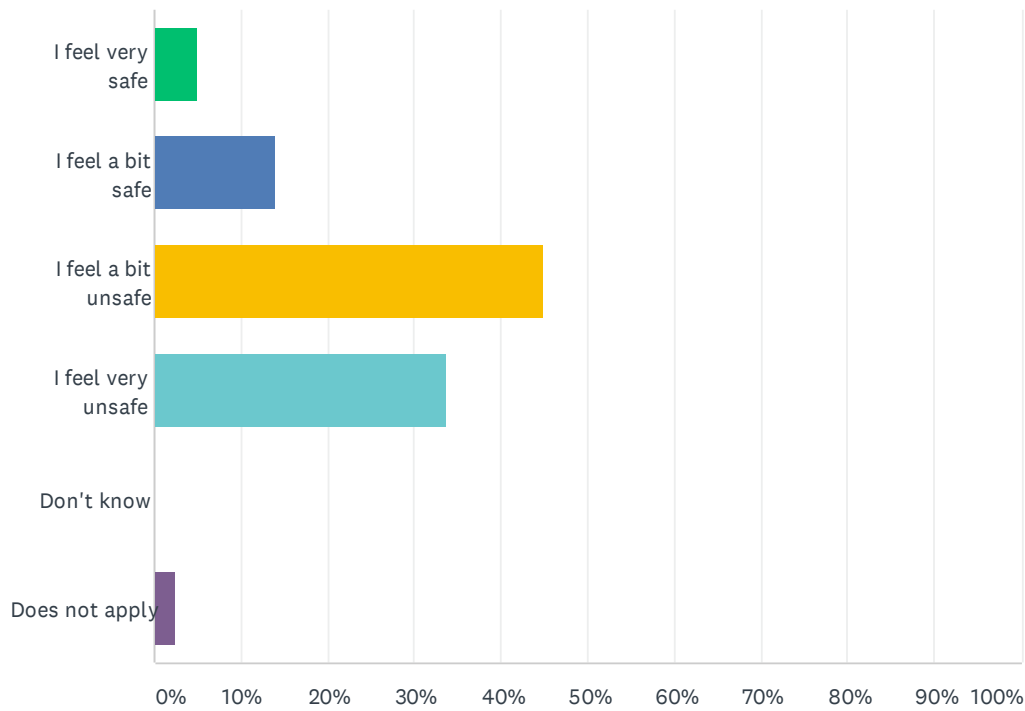
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No, I have never had or seen a bad experience	24.59%	30
Yes, myself or my children	34.43%	42
Yes, I have seen others having problems	40.98%	50
TOTAL		122

Q7 If you had a bad experience crossing Tennyson street, or seen one, please tell us about it. Please say which crossing it was (near Beckenham st, or near Southampton st, or near Norwood st, or near Eastern terrace)

Answered: 84 Skipped: 46

Q8 How safe do you feel when you or your family cross Tennyson street?

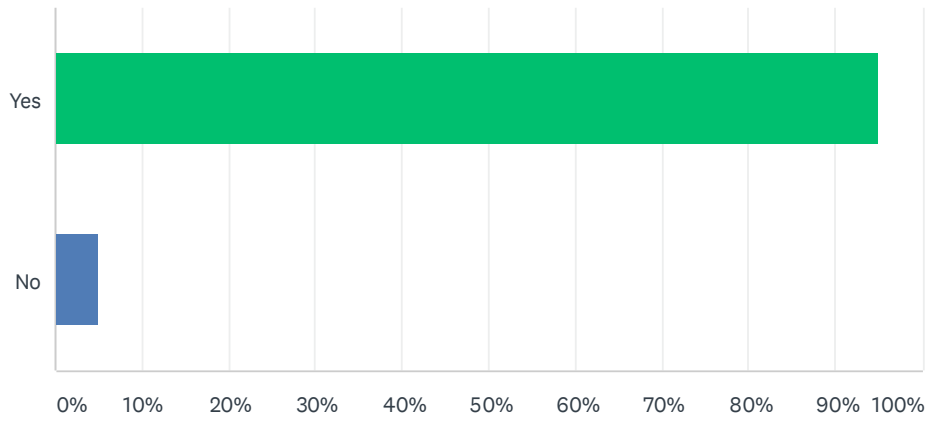
Answered: 122 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I feel very safe	4.92% 6
I feel a bit safe	13.93% 17
I feel a bit unsafe	45.08% 55
I feel very unsafe	33.61% 41
Don't know	0.00% 0
Does not apply	2.46% 3
TOTAL	122

Q9 Would you like to see changes to Tennyson street crossroads to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers using it?

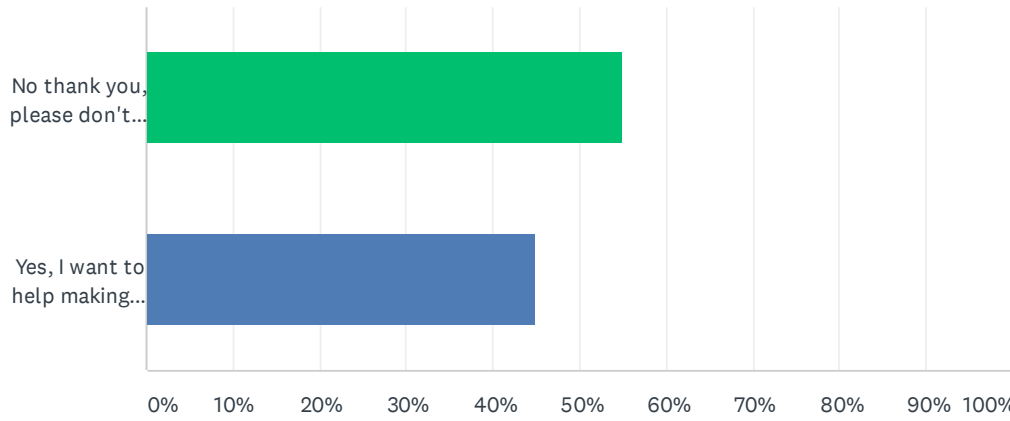
Answered: 122 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.08%	116
No	4.92%	6
TOTAL		122

Q10 Thank you for sharing your experiences and ideas about crossing Tennyson street! If you'd like us to get in touch with you about initiatives to make it safer, leave us your name and email or phone number. Thank you!! Liz and Matt, Beckenham school parents

Answered: 122 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No thank you, please don't get in touch with me about this.	54.92%	67
Yes, I want to help making Tennyson street crossings safe.	45.08%	55
TOTAL		122

39 traffic lights
32 lower speeds
15 one pedestrian crossing on Tennyson
11 people voted a bigger courtesy island

These are problems I have heard people report more frequently.

I personally experienced all of them frequently over the years while crossing with my children on foot or bike, and driving.

1. Cars go fast on Tennyson Street, people report it often feels like some cars go faster than 50 km/h
2. There are frequently young (<10 years old) children crossing Tennyson Street alone, going into the Beckenham loop to go to school. Adults report seeing children waiting looking worried and often crossing when it's not safe.
3. Adults with one or more children + pushchair + bikes/scooters/dogs report struggling to co-ordinate and cross safely when there is a break between two cars on Tennyson street
4. Courtesy crossings do not require drivers to stop so people talk about having to wait for a long time waiting for a gap in traffic to cross, or having to stop traffic to let children cross
5. Drivers bikers and pedestrians report that the Norwood street crossing is hard for everyone to use. Drivers report there is poor visibility turning from Norwood into Tennyson, and there are too many variables (fast cars, cyclists, pedestrians in particular unpredictable children) and poor visibility
6. Key problem areas are the Norwood Street crossing and the Eastern terrace crossing near the dairy
7. There have been several accidents since I've lived in the area, and many more near misses. Many are described in detail in the survey.
8. People who use the crossing or live in the street talk about the stress it causes. We have not tried to gauge the stress crossing Tennyson street causes on children but the kids who have talked about it to their parents describe it as scary. Some parents report how after a near miss their child didn't want to bike or walk to school for a long time, or the parents didn't feel safe to let them do so.
9. Courtesy islands are small so groups of adults + children do not fit safely within the island

The community in the area is motivated to walk and encourage our children to walk scoot and bike to school and other local places.

Our schools encourage and educate to promote active transport for wellbeing and as part of being responsible citizens and reduce our impact on the environment.

But the current set up of Tennyson Street does not make active transport safe.

Many parents I've talked to drive their kids to school as they don't feel it's safe to walk or bike across Tennyson Street, but would let them walk or bike if they felt the crossing was safe.

The current Tennyson street set not only makes it unsafe for children to go to school, but discourages movement of children from the streets north of Tennyson into the Beckenham loop and the park, reducing access to green spaces, the local school playground and places to play safely and be active.

This is particularly unfair and inequitable for families living North of Tennyson street, an area with no or little established trees, green spaces and playgrounds. Kids living North of

Tennyson street have less choice of safe and healthy outdoor play areas, and are more exposed to risk than the kids living within the Beckenham loop while going to school.

Council proposal to extend the courtesy island at Norwood Street will not address the majority of problems people experience. I do not support the current proposal.

Please, instead, remove the Norwood Street island and invest in two raised zebra crossings placed along Tennyson Street, one close to Norwood Street (but in a better position which doesn't have the visibility issues as the current courtesy island) and one near Eastern terrace.

Other New Zealand and overseas cities are using raised crossings as a way to promote active transport.

Please review the survey and poll and note how the majority of people who've responded indicated a crossing with or without lights would be an appropriate solution to make Tennyson Street safer to cross.

Local residents and schools have been asking, for a very long time, for a solution to crossing Tennyson street.

Children and adults living in the area, on both sides of Tennyson street, share the aspiration to be an active and connected community that moves around on foot and bikes, in an enjoyable and safe way for all people sharing the road.

These aspirations are consistent with the City Council vision which values well-being and social connection, where citizens are able to influence and design the neighbourhood they live in, which favours active transport and lower carbon emissions.

Please listen to people who live in the area and use Tennyson street, and make it safe to cross, in particular for our children.


Attached and part of this submission:

Survey of neighbours about their experiences crossing Tennyson Street

Facebook poll about desired solution for Tennyson Street

Thank you.

Ester Vallero





Ester Vallero created a poll.



July 16 at 12:16 AM · 🌐

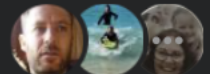


What do you need to cross Tennyson street safely?
Especially if you cross with young children or your children cross on their own.



Added by you

Two or more pedestrian crossings on Tennyson st

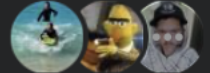


138 votes



Added by you

Traffic lights on Tennyson st

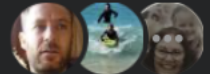


39 votes



Added by you

Lower speed on Tennyson st

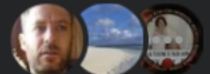


32 votes



Added by you

One pedestrian crossing on Tennyson st

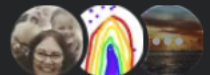


15 votes



Added by you

Bigger courtesy island at Norwood st



11 votes



Add an option



You and 5 others

44 Comments



Love



Comment

Tennyson Street - Pedestrian island improvements

Submission from the Beckenham Neighbourhood Association Inc (BNA).

16 August, 2021

Summary

This proposal is to widen the existing pedestrian island near Norwood Street to “make it safer to cross Tennyson Street”. The BNA is supportive of anything which improves pedestrian safety, but we do not believe this proposal will achieve that. We argue for a **raised platform pedestrian-priority crossing instead**, which would be slightly more expensive but would actually deliver real benefits.

About the BNA

The BNA represents residents in the area from the Beckenham Loop in the south up to Southampton St at Southey St in the north, spanning both sides of Tennyson St. A very long-standing complaint of our residents is difficulty for children and the elderly crossing Tennyson St, particularly children going to Beckenham School which is south of Tennyson St. There have been a number of injuries on Tennyson St, and one incident in recent years led to an unknown person painting an illegal pedestrian crossing on Tennyson St. This was quickly removed, but it shows the depth of feeling about crossing points on this road. The BNA has had a number of discussions with Council about Tennyson St, so we are very interested in making this road safer.

Why we do not support the proposal on road safety grounds

The problem with refuge islands is that they allow pedestrians to cross one lane of traffic at a time, but still leave the decision about when to cross each lane entirely the responsibility of the pedestrian. When the pedestrian is very young or very old, this is not helpful. The very young do not have the cognitive skills to safely judge traffic speeds so that they know when they can cross. Hence, refuges do not reassure parents enough to let their children walk or cycle to school. The very elderly are not helped because they may judge traffic gaps appropriately, but lack the speed to cross fast enough to use any but the largest gaps. Hence, we do not think widening the existing refuge is a good use of ratepayers' money. It will not encourage parents to let their children walk or cycle to school. The result is likely to be that children will instead be driven to Beckenham School, which already has problems with traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day. So widening the refuge is not going to help anyone, and if any money is to be spent it should be on something which helps these vulnerable groups.

Also, we think the location of the current island which this proposal would widen is unsafe, because it is located too close to the junction of Norwood St, and crossing pedestrians experience near-misses with cars turning out of Norwood St.

Two other arguments against a wider refuge

There are two other reasons we favour a proper pedestrian-priority crossing. Firstly, there is a climate crisis which the City Council has declared to be an emergency. We need to encourage people out of cars, and that includes making it safer to walk and cycle. Improving safety will empower residents who would currently prefer to be using non-motorised transport except that they regard the road environment as unsafe. We need to alter priorities away from just car movements; we have to start prioritising people. This small change of adding a pedestrian crossing would be a step towards better pedestrian safety, which our residents have argued strongly in favour of for a number of years.

Secondly, there is a social equity issue here. The BNA area and Beckenham School zone both include areas north of Tennyson St (Sydenham South census area in the latest census), and children on that side need to cross Tennyson St twice a day. We should be providing these children with safe routes to walk and cycle to school. Since the community north of Tennyson

St has higher rates of unemployment, lower incomes and a greater proportion of Maori than those south of Tennyson (Beckenham census area), this community would benefit even more from provision of safe walking routes with the associated savings in money and improvements in health outcomes.

What we would support

We think the Council should instead provide a **safe pedestrian-priority crossing**. Ideally Tennyson St would have at least three pedestrian priority crossings and a slower speed limit (40 km/h). But in the short term, a single proper pedestrian crossing would be a tremendous improvement. We have been told in the past that pedestrian crossings can result in increases (not decreases) in injuries. We think this can be avoided by doing it properly: the **pedestrian crossing should be on a raised platform**, as this has been shown to make the cars slow down and to make the crossing statistically safer overall. There is an expense, but perhaps not much more than is proposed here for widening a refuge which we think would achieve almost nothing. A proper raised-platform pedestrian-priority crossing would be a huge benefit for Tennyson St, and we ask that the Community Board examine that alternative.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Dave Kelly
chair, Beckenham Neighbourhood Association