



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon Dunedin
Dunedin
9058

Sent via email to dcc@dcc.govt.nz

Feedback from the Ministry of Education on George / Bank Street Connection Project

Background

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the George / Bank Street Connection Project ('the Project') proposed by Dunedin City Council (DCC). The Ministry of Education ('the Ministry') is the Government's lead advisor on the New Zealand education system, shaping the direction for education agencies and providers and contributing to the Government's goals for education. The Ministry assesses population changes, school roll fluctuations, and other trends and challenges impacting on education provision at all levels of the education network to identify changing needs within the network so the Ministry can respond effectively.

The Ministry has responsibility for all education property owned by the Crown. This involves managing the existing property portfolio, upgrading, and improving the portfolio, purchasing, and constructing new property to meet increased demand, identifying and disposing of surplus State school sector property, and managing teacher and caretaker housing. Therefore, The Ministry is a considerable stakeholder in activities that may impact existing and future educational facilities and assets in Dunedin.

The Ministry's feedback on the Project

The Ministry acknowledges that the Project's aim seeks to improve the safety of users of all ages and abilities along the project corridor. The Ministry supports the intent of the Project to improve public transportation and active modes of travel. The Ministry also supports any projects that encourage slower speed environments like this Project would.

George Street Normal School is located at 989 George Street, Dunedin. This Project proposes a number of changes outside the school including the relocation of the school's disabled parking, relocating the school's pick-up and drop-off area further north, and the installation of in-lane bus stops outside the school. Therefore, the Ministry considers that the school is a key stakeholder for this Project.

The Ministry has sought feedback from George Street Normal School which has some concerns with the designs and requests that further engagement is undertaken between DCC and the school. The school feels that this proposal is something that needs to be discussed at a school board level, the next board meeting is on the 24th October 2023. The school's initial feedback is outlined as follows:

- Currently there is a sheltered area where students wait outside the disabled parking and pick-up / drop-off location. This allows them to be sheltered from the elements while they wait to be picked up. The shifting of the pick-up and drop-off zones by approximately 20 metres means the students cannot use the shelter. Or if they do use it in poor weather events, they will have less visibility of their caregiver's car arriving in the pick-up and drop-off zone 20 metres down the road.

- The school would also like feedback sought from the three families who use the disabled parking spots regularly. The short engagement window has not allowed the school to seek their feedback in time for this response.
- The relocation of the pick-up and drop-off zone closer to the Willowbank Convenience Store may also lead to students having greater accessibility to the dairy leading to a potential increase in unhealthy eating choices and shoplifting.
- Although the Ministry supports any project prioritising cycling lanes, the school has concerns regarding this as it appears to narrow the road, which could have implications on the overall safety of the road. The school would like to better understand any potential safety effects from narrowing the road from DCC's transport specialists.
- The Ministry does support the raised intersection design at George Street and Duke Street, as it will encourage a slower roading environment.

The Ministry and the school would appreciate the opportunity to meet with DCC to discuss the Project proposal and better understand the implications of each option before a decision is made. We understand that DCC would likely have their own Project Objectives to meet around road safety and bus trip efficiency. However, we respectfully request that DCC also consider the implications of the design on the safety of tamariki, rangatahi and kaimahi as well as on the operation of the school.

We look forward to hearing from you to discuss this important Project.

Sincerely,

Walter Lettink
Infrastructure Manager – Asset Planning
DDI +6433787805 | Mobile +64276822929
walter.lettink@education.govt.nz