



Safe walking & cycling connections around Albany

Community Engagement Report

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Summary

We are working to improve walking and cycling connections in Albany, focusing on Albany Highway between Bush Road, Sunset Road, and parts of Goldfinch Rise.

We aim to make it safer and easier for people to walk and cycle, especially in areas without footpaths. We are seeking community input to help shape the designs.

We engaged the community on this proposal from November 2024 to December 2024 and received 187 submissions.

			
177 online survey submissions	2 stakeholder meetings	2 emailed submissions	6 public visit submissions

Key themes in the online feedback

66%	of respondents strongly agree that safer and easier cycleways are needed.
80%	of respondents strongly agree that the project area needs safer and accessible footpaths.
55%	of respondents don't feel safe walking because of how people drive.
73%	of respondents walk for exercise, 45% walk for fun, 43% walk to public transport, and 26% walk locally at least 5 days a week or more.
60%	of respondents want a shared, wider pathway to walk and cycle.
72%	of respondents believe that safe cycling infrastructure would help them cycle more.
86%	of respondents usually travel around Albany Highway in a private vehicle.

You can read more about the feedback we received in the [Your Response](#) section.

Next steps

This engagement was designed to engage with the community, align the project with locals' needs and preferences, and to understand what locals want to see on their local streets. The project has reached a holding point until funding is approved to take it to the next stage.

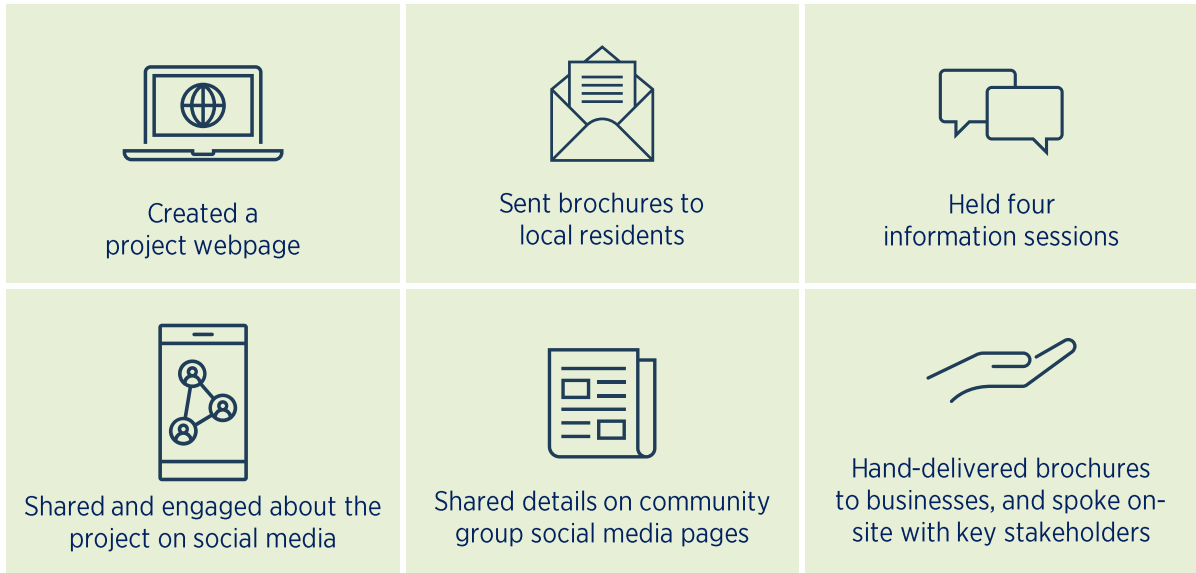
We will remain in contact with the community with project updates. However, AT also acknowledges that funding must be established, which could take some time.

By taking these engagement steps, Auckland Transport seeks to address the community's concerns and improve the safety and accessibility of the Albany Highway area, now and in the future.

Public engagement process

Activities to raise awareness

To let you know about our engagement, we:



How people provided feedback

The public provided feedback using an online submission form on the [webpage](#) via a short URL and QR code on the brochure (a copy of this is located on the website).

Your Response

Overview

187

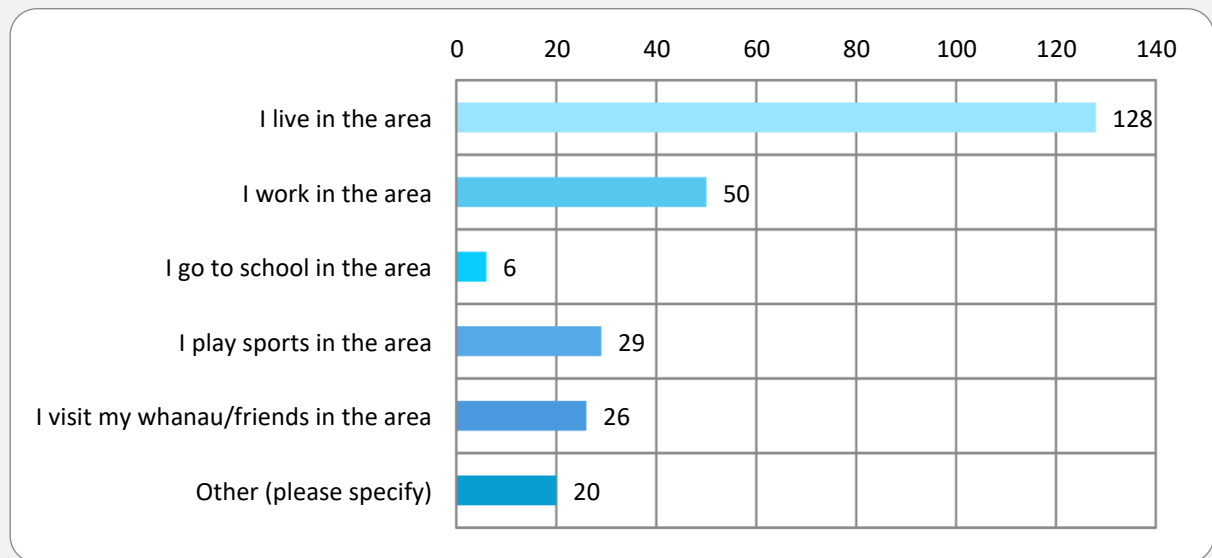
**total
submissions**

177 online submissions

10 other submissions

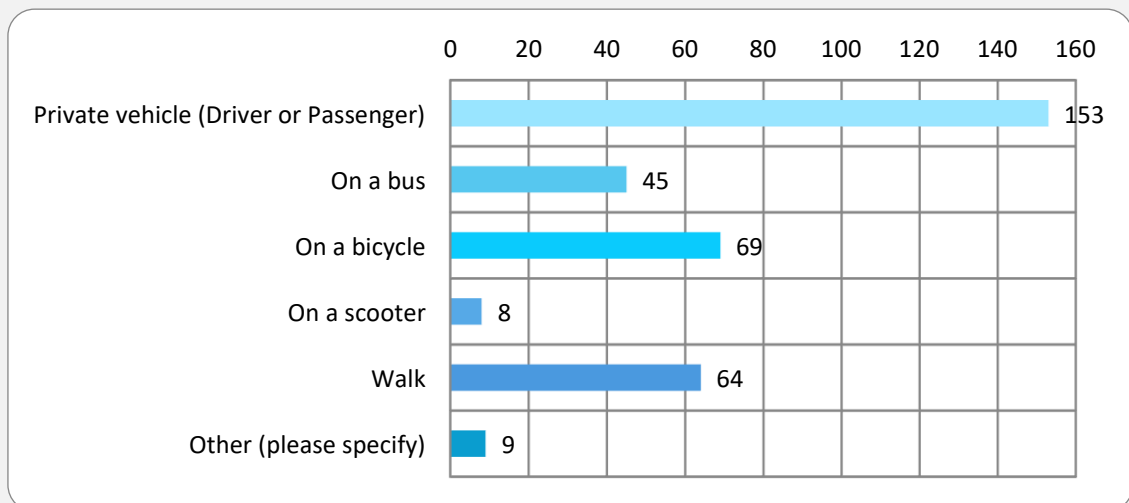
What brings you to the Albany Highway, in the project area of interest?

Respondents could select more than one statement.

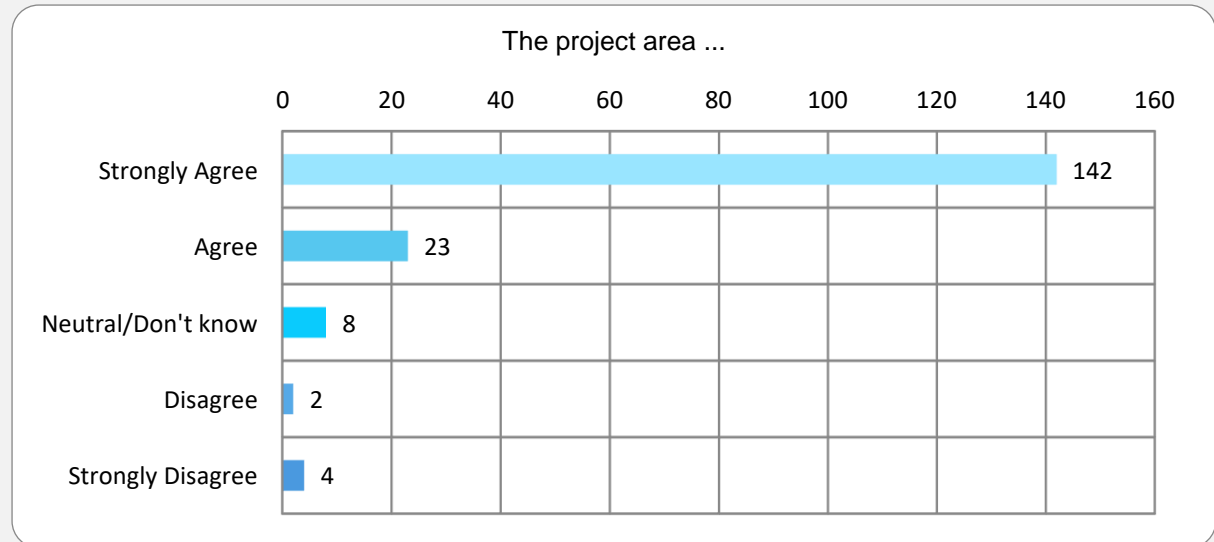


How do you usually travel around Albany Highway? (select all that apply)

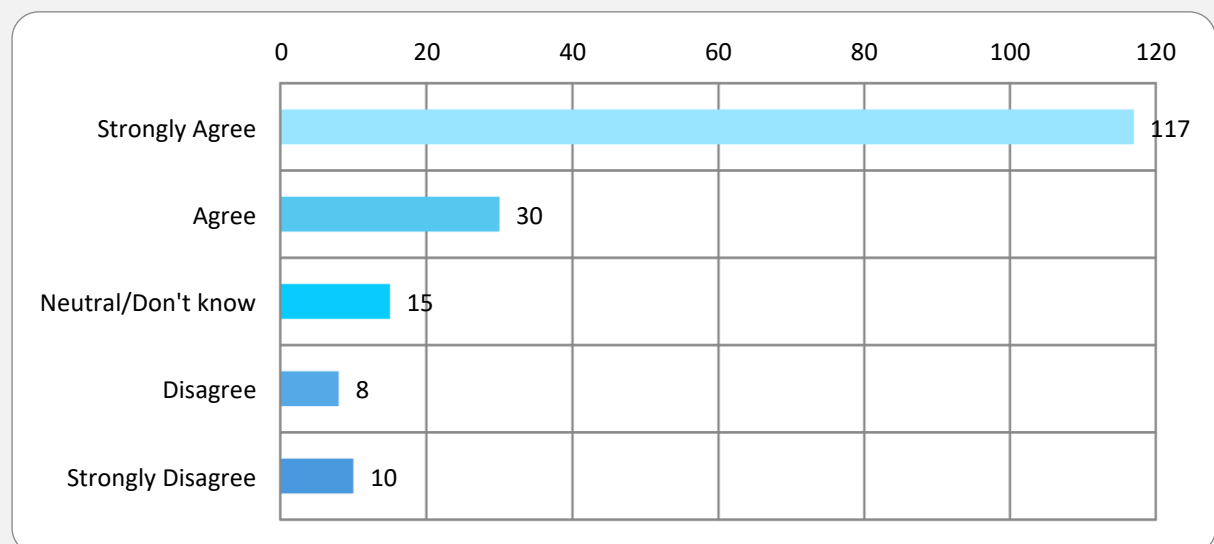
Respondents could select more than one statement.



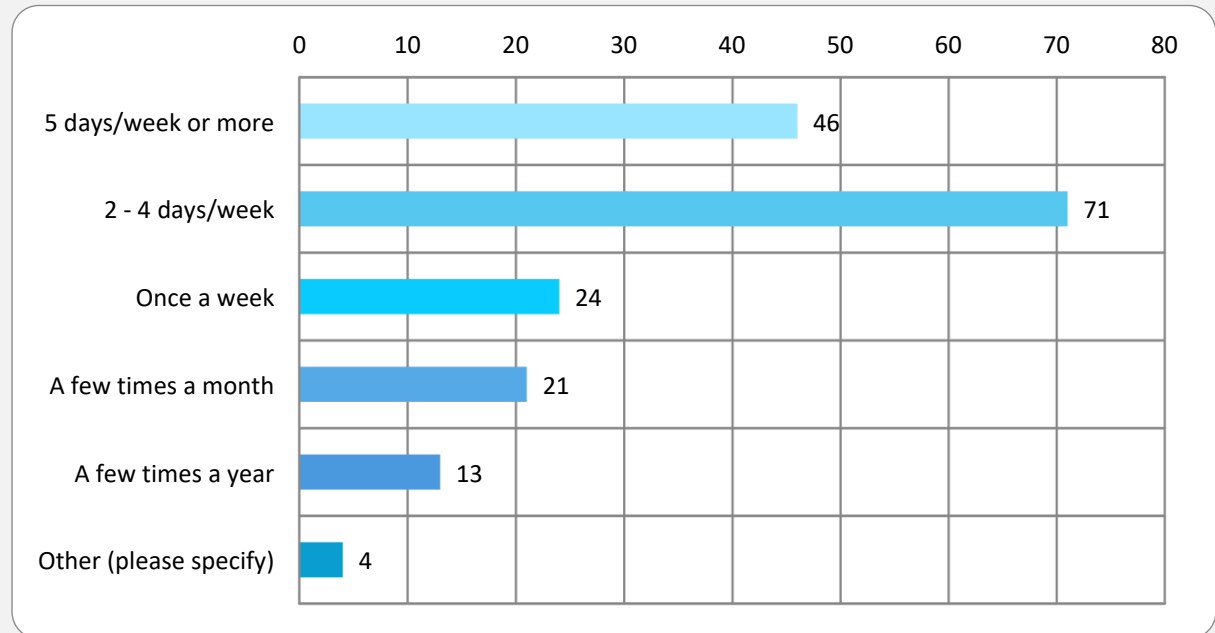
The project area needs safer and accessible footpaths for locals to travel (between Bush Road and Sunset Road)



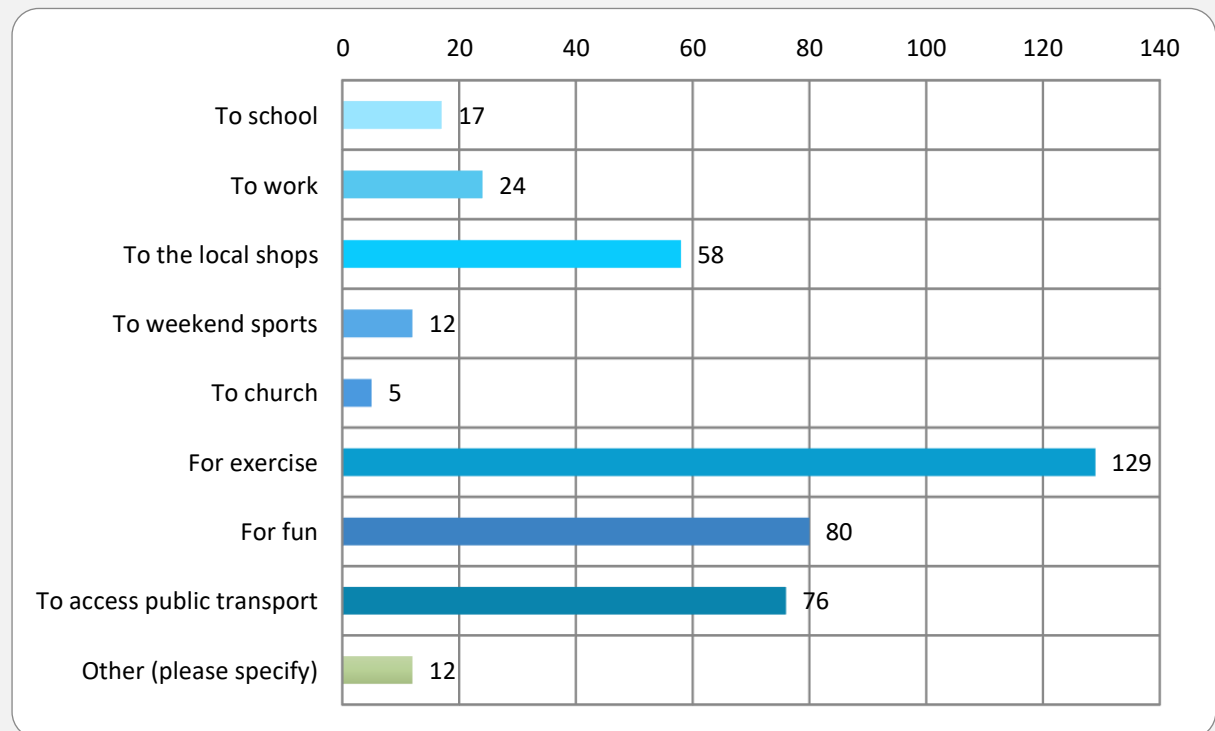
The proposed project area needs safer and easier cycleways for locals to travel (between Bush Road and Sunset Road)



How often do you walk around your neighbourhood?

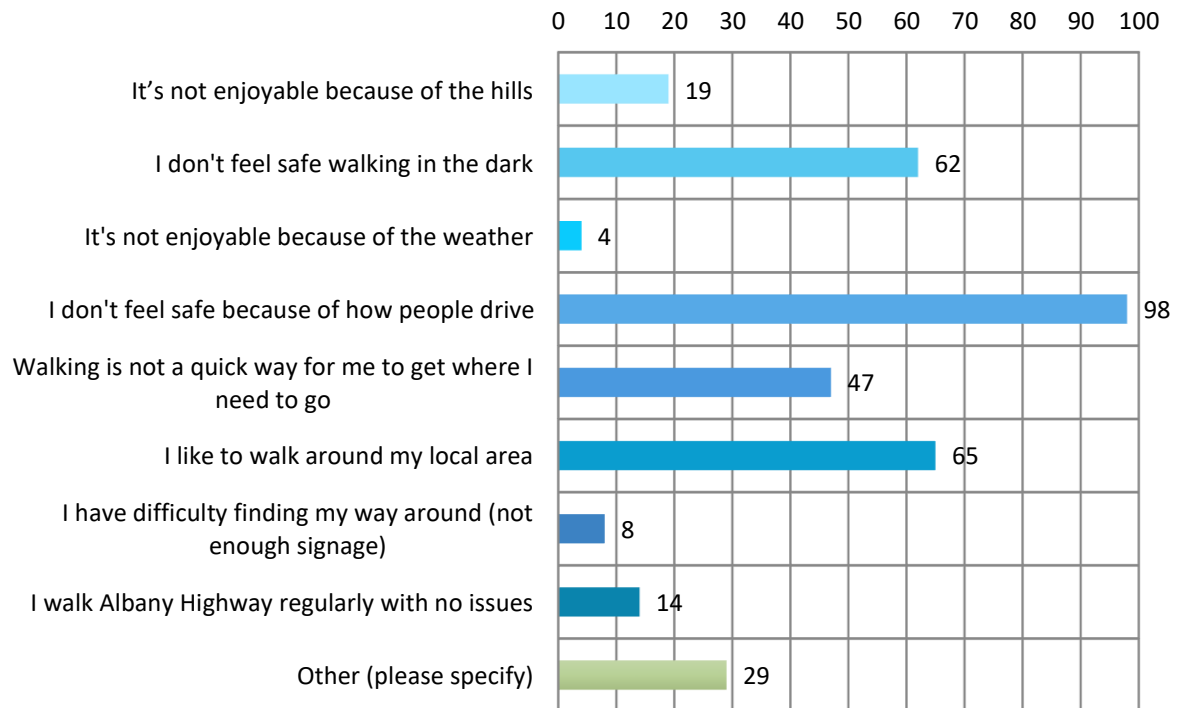


Where do you walk to? *Respondents could select more than one statement.*



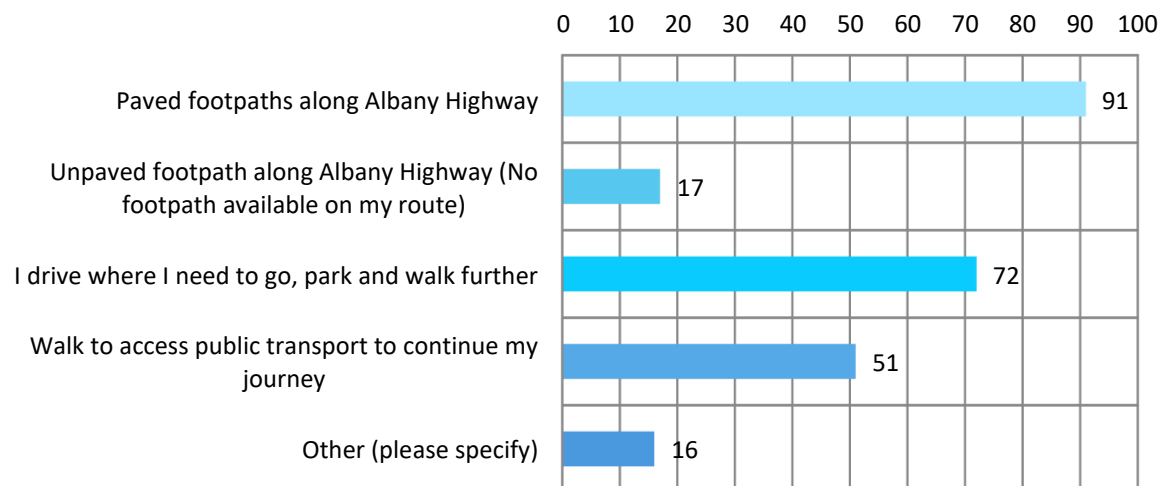
While walking on Albany Highway, which statement applies to you?

Respondents could select more than one statement.



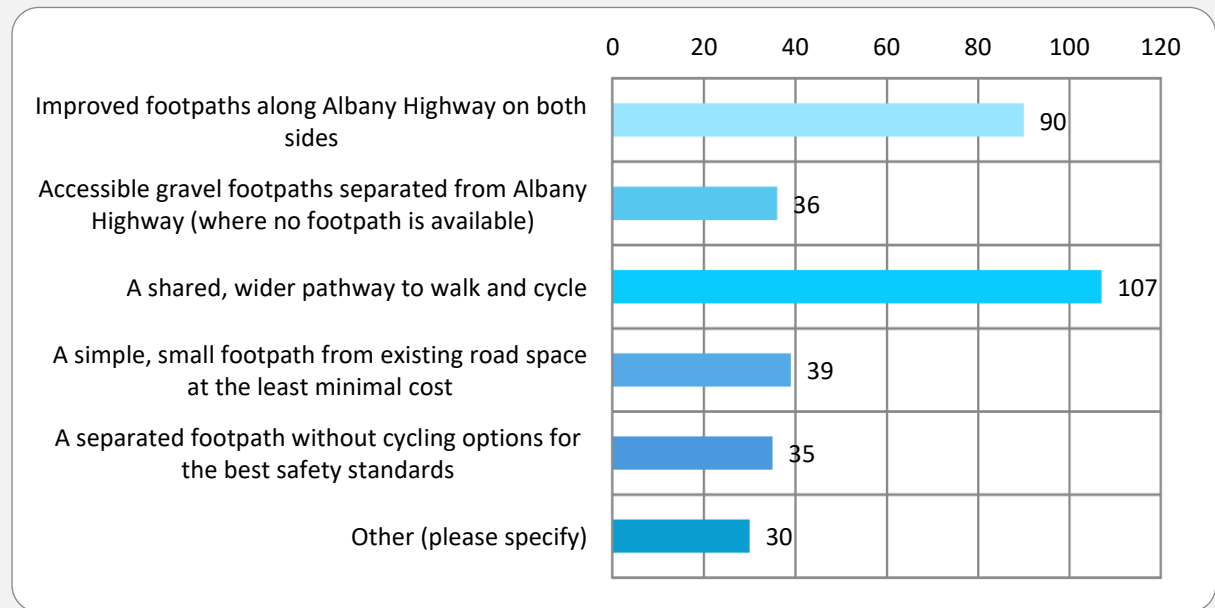
For short trips, what walking options do you normally travel on?

Respondents could select more than one statement.



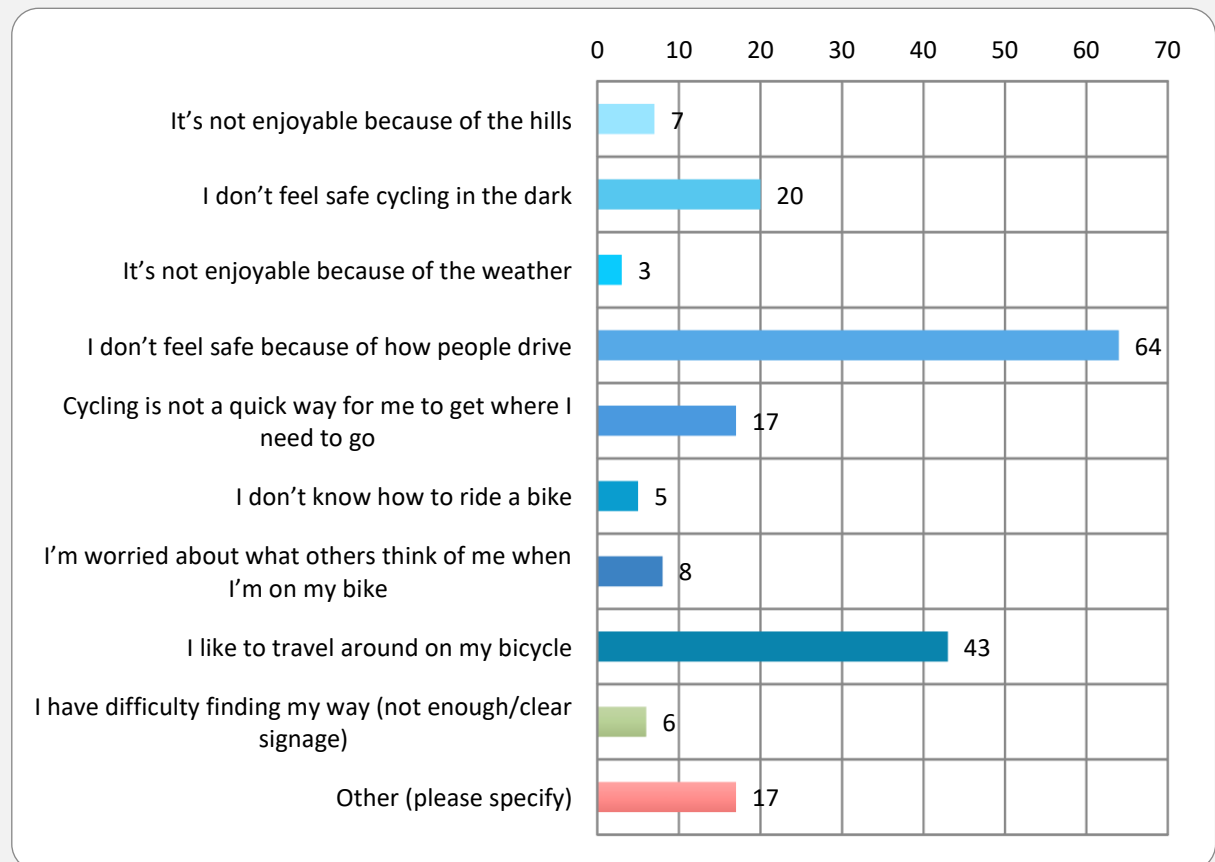
What would you like to see along Albany Highway?

Respondents could select more than one statement.

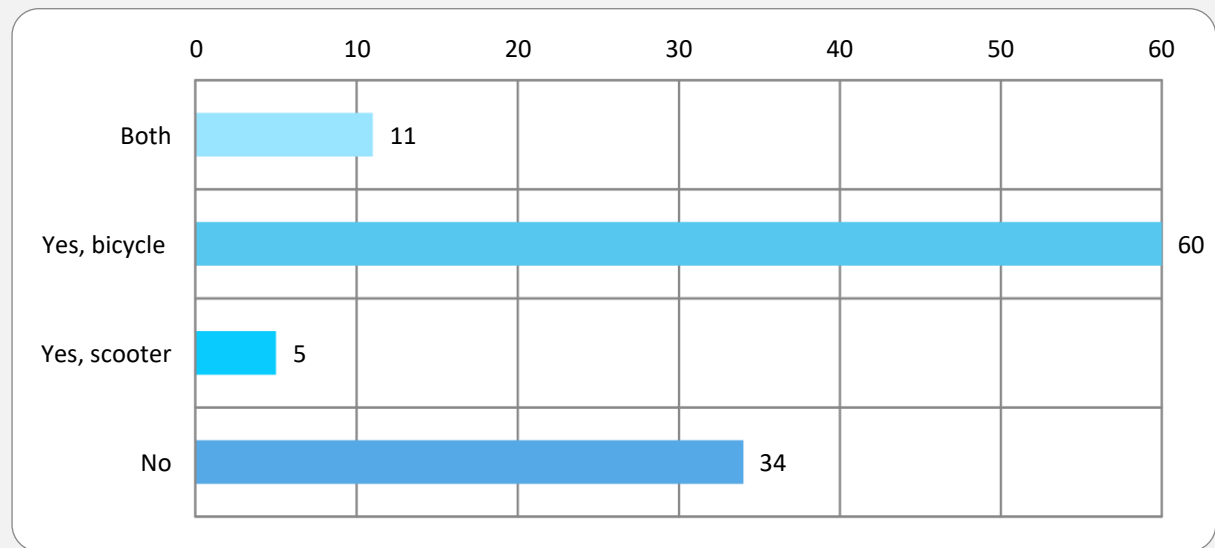


When it comes to cycling on Albany Highway, which statement applies to you?

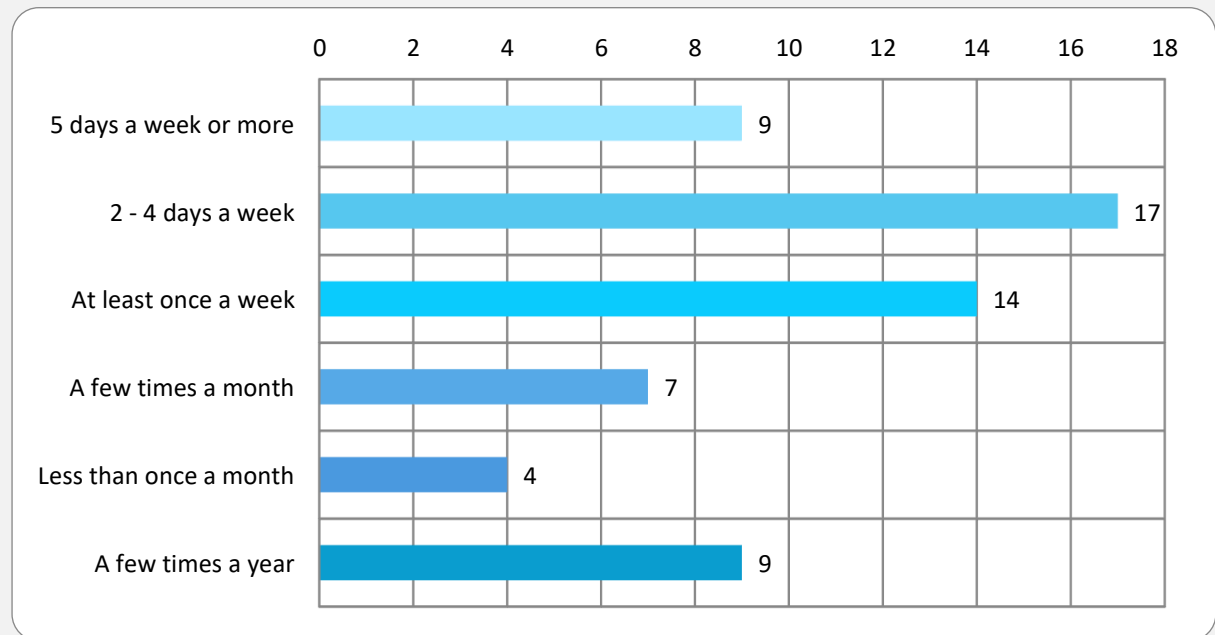
Respondents could select more than one statement.



Do you ride or have access a bicycle or scooter?

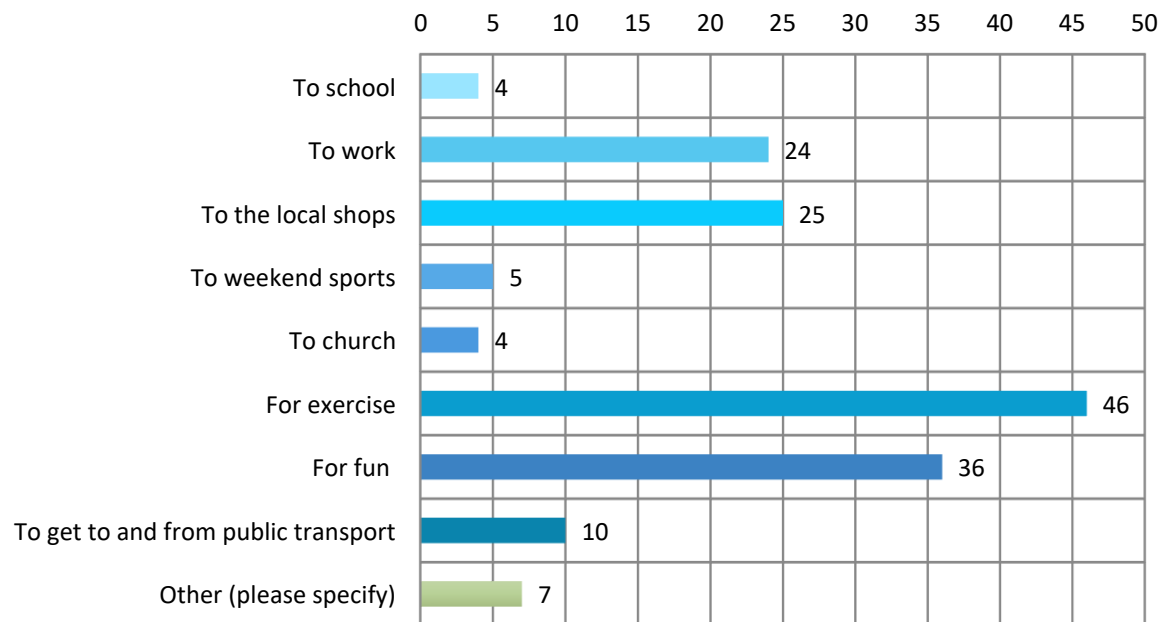


How often do you ride a bicycle or scooter?



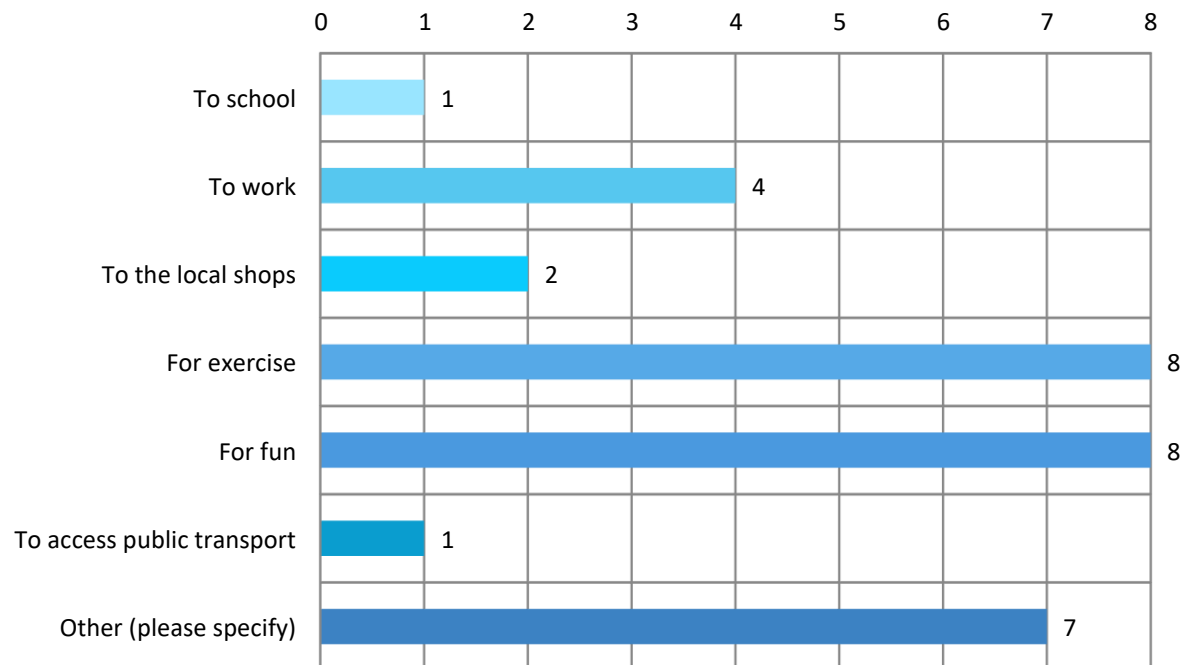
Where do you travel on your bicycle or scooter?

Respondents could select more than one statement.



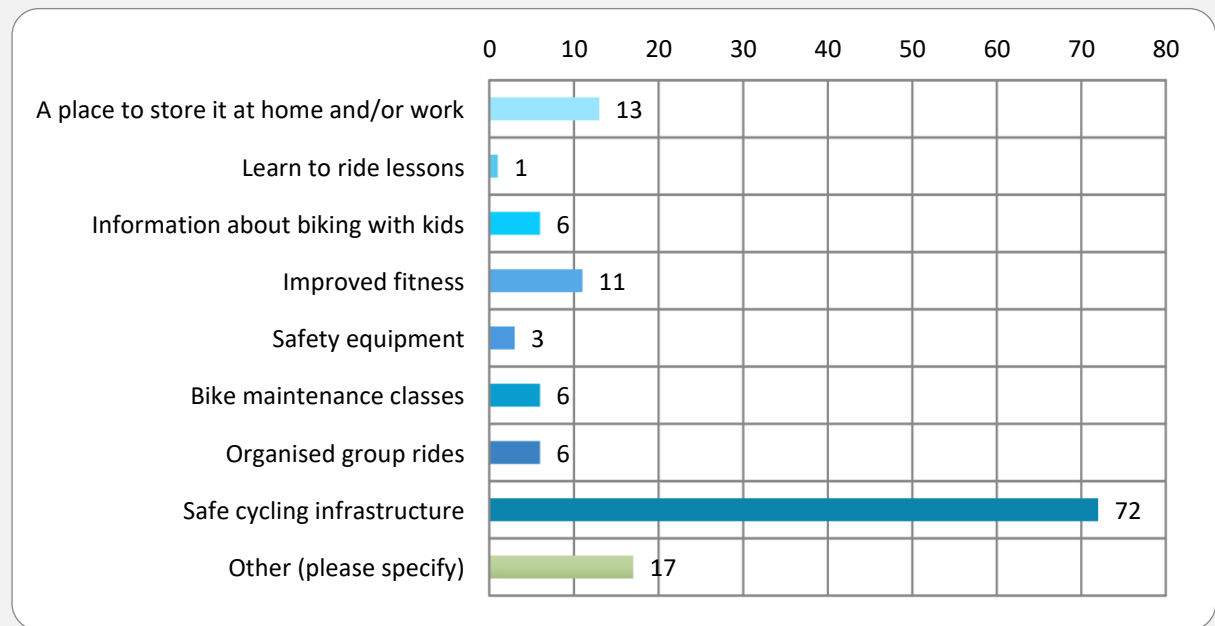
If it was safer and accessible, where would you cycle or scoot to?

Respondents could select more than one statement.



What would help you cycle or use a scooter more in your neighbourhood?

Respondents could select more than one statement.



Your thoughts and concerns

* Please note that each of the comments below is a summary for each theme, and may not be a complete response, only grouped into a themed category.

Support for Safer Footpaths + Crossings



"There needs to be a footpath added to both sides of the road to connect the footpath along Albany Highway between Sunset Road and Bush Road. It is insane that there is no footpath in such a highly populated area."

"The section between Unsworth Heights and Taimana Place are so bad, there is a lot of road space here and a separated shared path for both cycling and walking that links the northern parts of Albany Highway with south of Sunset would be great."

"A footpath down the Westminster School side of the road without a path on the other (with or without shared cycle lanes)"

"The stretch of Albany Highway between Unsworth Drive and Korari Way desperately needs a footpath. I don't feel safe walking on the road side particularly with the higher speed limit"

"There is no safe means of crossing the busy Highway, from Sunset Road traffic lights to Schnapper Rock Intersection lights."

"I am unable to cross over Albany Highway to access the bus stop due to the speed of traffic."

"There is nowhere to walk on! You have to walk on a tiny strip of grass with no curb to keep cars off the grass."

Encouragement for Cycling Infrastructure



"A shared, wider pathway to walk and cycle would be beneficial for both pedestrians and cyclists."

"Adding cycle lanes in this area would nicely connect the SH18 cycle paths and the upper harbour path."

"Cycle lane continuation from upper harbour highway to join the cycle lane along the motorway to go on to constellation drive."

Active Community



"I like to walk around my local area for exercise and fun."

"I regularly (3-5 days per week) cycle from my home on Glenfield road to Rothwell Ave."

"I enjoy cycling and the current Albany highway between the motorway and Greenhithe lights needs a shared path."

"I enjoy walking and cycling for leisure around the Albany Highway area."

"I walk my dog regularly along Albany Highway."

Inadequate Footpath Conditions



"The surface that I walk on is not enjoyable or safe. In the wet, to be safe, you have to get shoes wet on the grass."

"The footpaths are bad and unsafe. I live in Schnapper Rock and like to walk for exercise. In my 70s along footpaths."

"There needs to be pedestrian refuge islands, especially near the bus stops. There are often people incl school kids standing in the middle of the 60kmh road, trying to cross. This is especially dangerous in the dark."

"I don't feel like I am protected or safe due to the lack of pedestrian protection and lack of footpaths there even though there is a bus stop which I must get off in the middle of the highway."

Cycling Safety Issues



"The intersection with Upper Harbour Highway is incredibly dangerous on a bike, especially when attempting to travel south."

"Cycling past Upper Harbour Drive and the motorway on-ramps is dangerous; I have cars try to take me out weekly."

"The section of road between SH18 and Unsworth Drive has no safe pedestrian walkway or cycleway and someone is going to get injured or killed"

"The southbound section of Albany Hwy going past Upper Harbour Dr – it's a blind corner with no shoulder so cyclists are forced onto the road going around the corner where cars can't see them. Hugely dangerous."

Suggestions

"Cycle lane continuation from upper harbour highway to join the cycle lane along the motorway to go on to constellation drive."

"Lower speed limit past Westminster Christian School on Albany Highway"

"A safety zone for pedestrians to cross the busy Highway adjacent to Westminster School rear entrance."

"There needs to be pedestrian refuge islands, especially near the bus stops. There are often people including school kids standing in the middle of the 60km/h road, trying to cross. This is especially dangerous in the dark."

"There needs to be a shared walking/cycling path along Albany Highway where there isn't a footpath available now. This cannot encroach on the existing road as traffic builds up in rush hour"

"A new shared path on the northern side of the highway is a good option as it keeps the number of crossings to a minimum."

"A better alternative would be to use the existing cycle and walking pathways from Rosedale Park with underpass at Constellation, through Omega Reserve, a small existing path through to Barbados Dr expanded and then the Unsworth Reserve pathway to Goldfinch. From Goldfinch up to Albany highway or via Thornbill through to Tenbless that leads to Sunset"

"A path from Bush Rd to Sunset would mostly only be good for cyclists (for work travel) due to distance. Not for large numbers of walkers."

"A shared walking/scooter path would be fine."

"Two lanes each way for cars & buses, to & from the motorway."



Key stakeholder submissions

In addition to public response on our webpage, we received submissions from key interest groups such as Highgrove Village & Patrick Ferry House and Westminster Christian School & Pre-School.

Highgrove Village & Patrick Ferry House

On Tuesday, 3rd December 2024, the “Safe walking & cycling connections around Albany” project team visited Highgrove Village & Patrick Ferry House staff and residents to engage and discuss the project.

Attendees could ask questions about the designs associated with the project team, what they wanted the project to focus on, and their future hopes for transport along Albany Highway.

The attendees provided a formal submission to present their concerns and highlight what they would like to see changed within the project area. This was supplied with a signed document with 70 signatures from residents and stakeholders who support their concern.

The concerns for pedestrians are as follows:

1/ No footpaths or cycle lanes have been established on Albany Highway from an area close to Unsworth Drive intersection through to the Upper Harbour on/off ramps at Schnapper Rock.

Please refer to attached photographs. At present, the undeveloped shoulder of the roadway for pedestrians, cyclists, scooter use, are increasingly in need of an upgrade due to damaged seal, slippery grass and uneven gravel surfaces.

2/ There are no means for pedestrians to cross Albany Highway in a safe manner from Sunset Road intersection, through to the Upper Harbour motorway on/off ramps at Schnapper Rock.

Please refer to attached photographs which highlights the danger that exists. It has been advocated, as a priority, a safety barrier or installation of traffic lights be provided on Albany Highway, in the vicinity of Bus stop 3699 at the rear entrance to Westminster School.

3/ Excessive speed of some vehicles and motor cyclists are a danger to pedestrians especially when attempting to cross the Highway or walking on the shoulder of the road.

The ‘speed indicator’ installed adjacent to the rear entrance to Westminster School, confirms driver’s ignorance in some instances.

It is recommended cameras are installed in this location and consideration given to reducing the present speed limit of 60 kph.

4/ Some drivers approaching the intersection of Albany Highway and Upper Harbour Drive have been observed failing to comply with lane markings. Some drivers intending to continue in a southerly direction on the Highway, choose to stay in the right turning lane and then at the traffic lights, shortcut through the prevention bollards and rejoin the second lane before continuing down the hill.

Notwithstanding these offences require Police enforcement, this area requires monitoring by the traffic design team, for considering a reconfiguration of the intersection.

5/ The speed of some vehicles on Unsworth Drive are excessive of the legal limit at times. Refer Police file for confirmation of past accidents in the area.

It has been advocated an appropriate speed calmer system be provided in the vicinity of Westminster Gardens.

6/ At the intersection of Unsworth Drive, all drivers intending to turn right onto Albany Highway and conversely turning right into Unsworth Drive during busy periods, are seen to be taking risks in completing their manoeuvre. The speed of approaching traffic from both directions on the Highway, poses danger.

This area requires monitoring, for considering a reconfiguration of the intersection, or alternatively, installation of traffic lights.

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Westminster Christian School & Pre-School

Westminster Christian School welcomes Auckland Transports desire to provide safe cycling and walking on our school boundary with Albany Highway.

In 2011 we met with Auckland Transport and their consultants BECA regarding plans to duplicate what was done from Bush Road north to Albany Village.

This project once appeared on AT's website.

A walkway would allow us easy access to two external venues we have dealing with - High Grove Retirement Village & Patrick Ferry House and North Harbour Life Development Centre (NHLDC)

We often allow our school to be used for overflow parking for events hosted at these sites and in turn our children perform at High Grove and have Easter Service and End of Year Prize Givings at NHLDC.

As there is no walkway, NHLDC operates a shuttle service between the school and their church and the school hires buses for these short trips.

While pleased that a pathway is under consideration but disappointed that the original project was shelved.

We had looked forward to the original plan of two lanes of traffic in both directions and a median strip which would stop cars turning right across the traffic.

We can not prevent parents from parking and picking up their children on Albany Highway.

We had also hoped that the lack of drainage on this road would be attended to.

A large amount of water travels through neighbouring properties on to the school. Since February 2023 flooding we have improved flood protection for our neighbours on the lower part of our property, but remain unprotected by the properties above us. We would welcome work on Albany Highway to divert water into the stormwater system.

As a school, buses pick children up for various outings.

Due to Transport Companies Health and Safety policies and insurance they refuse to pick up and drop off inside our grounds.

Bus companies are reluctant to travel up Westminster Gardens to the school due to council trees hanging over the road.

We have agreed to them picking our children up from the bus stop on Albany Highway.

Some trips require more than one bus, so we are keen not to lose waiting spaces for these buses as they will likely need to park on the cycle way.

Previous plans amalgamated our bus stop with one outside Patrick Ferry House with a controlled pedestrian crossing nearby. We would prefer retaining a stop directly outside our school.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss our needs further.

Regards

Richard Hoek

Business Manager / Proprietors Representative

Westminster Christian School Incorporated

31 Westminster Gardens

Unsworth Heights

Auckland 0632