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To The Christchurch City Council

Please find attached our submission on the High Street improvements project

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

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# **Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly**

**We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people**

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People’s Organisation run by and for disabled people.

**We recognise:**

* Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
* disabled people as experts on their own lives;
* the [Social Model of Disability](https://www.odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/guidance-for-policy-makes/) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
* the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State;
* the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
* the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-2018-2022-maori-disability-action-plan), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/5E544A3A23BEAECDCC2580FE007F7518/%24file/faiva-ora-2016-2021-national-pasifika-disability-plan-feb17.pdf) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

**We drive systemic change through:**

**Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

**Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

**Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

**Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# **The submission**

DPA is providing this submission for the benefit of the Christchurch City Council in its deliberations on the High Street improvements.

DPA welcomes the proposals to improve the High Street area for all users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. We endorse all the proposals made around how to improve this area, especially the 10 km/h speed limit for vehicular traffic.

However, in this brief submission, we provide a disability perspective on how things can be improved further to ensure the greater accessibility of the High Street area.

**Preference for Option 1**

DPA supports Option 1 as our main preference for accessibility reasons. We note, though, that while this proposal is largely positive, it will still be necessary to remind cyclists to give way to traffic. Recently our Christchurch Kaituitui encountered a cyclist who almost went through a red light. DPA believes it would be helpful to have signage put in place reminding cyclists to behave safely around both traffic and pedestrians in this space.

DPA also recommends that a raised pedestrian crossing should be inserted in High Street, to enable pedestrians to be clearly seen by traffic and cyclists.

DPA recommends that tactile strips be placed at crossings for blind and low vision people to navigate safely.

**DPA’s recommendations**

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

* **Recommendation 1:** The need to have prominent signage put in place reminding cyclists of their responsibilities to behave safely around both traffic and pedestrians in this space.
* **Recommendation 2:** That a raised pedestrian crossing should be inserted in High Street, to enable pedestrians to be clearly seen by traffic and cyclists.
* **Recommendation 3:** That tactile strips be placed at crossings for blind and low vision people to navigate safely.