



Streets Alive - Shaping our Future

School workshops - Analysis Report



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School Workshops

During June 2021, McElrea Consulting held workshops with around 50 students at the following schools in Gore:

- West Gore Primary School
- Gore Main School
- Gore High School
- St Peters College

Students were asked what they liked about the Streets Alive Trials, what they didn't like and whether they had any ideas to help make Gore safer, accessible and more vibrant.

Students at all of these schools were very aware of the Streets Alive trials that were happening in Gore, most having experienced aspects of the trials for themselves.

Students liked the Irk Street parklets as they felt that the parklets added a nice, vibrant feel to the township. They liked the outdoor seating, picnic areas and fairy lights. Students also thought the roundabouts were good in that they helped to slow traffic and create a better traffic flow, however they were concerned that the roundabouts were too small for the types of vehicles using them. Some liked the look of the planter boxes, however more students felt that these were dangerous and could cause driver distraction leading to crashes. Some thought the courtesy crossings were good as they made crossing the streets safer, however most wanted the crossings to become zebra crossings or that there be more education in schools around using courtesy crossings.

Another interesting observation from students is that they disliked the reaction from the community to the trials. Students also cited frustration and anger from parents due to changes being trialled throughout Gore.

Suggestions received to improve safety, accessibility and vibrancy in Gore included provision of more outdoor facilities (skate park and picnic areas), changing courtesy crossings to zebra crossings, establishing proper cycle and scooter lanes throughout Gore and better road signage to ensure drivers and pedestrians are aware of upcoming roundabouts and courtesy crossings.

What has been good about the trials, and why?



Irk Street Parklets

Students liked the Irk Street parklets because they added vibrancy to Gore. They especially liked outdoor seating, picnic areas, murals, fairy lights and the deck by H&J's.



Roundabouts

Students thought that the roundabouts were good as they created a better traffic flow. Some suggested that these are made bigger so that their parents vehicles can manouvre around them.



Planter boxes

Some students liked the look of the planter boxes as they thought that these brightened the streets of Gore.



Courtesy Crossings

Some students liked the courtesy crossings as they felt safer when crossing the roads. They also thought that the crossings are safer for cyclists, walkers and runners.

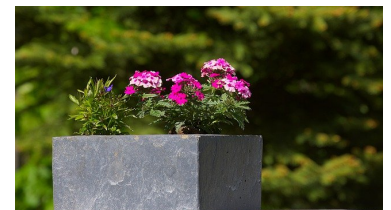


What has not been so good about the trials, and why?



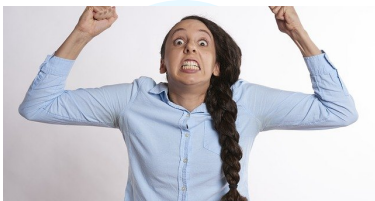
Road Closures

Students thought that the one way streets were inconvenient (time consuming), harder to navigate and dangerous due to stressed drivers and they encourage small children to play in the streets.



Planter boxes

Although in the previous section, some students liked how the planter boxes looked, many students did not like them as they were seen as a driver distraction and likely to cause crashes.



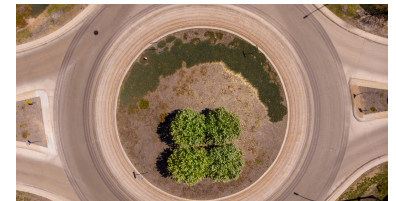
Reactions to the trials

Students did not like people's reaction to the trials. Some expressed concern at their parents' anger over the trials and they didn't think that the anger and frustration was good for the community.



Courtesy Crossings

Although students generally liked the courtesy crossings, they felt that they didn't know the rules and a few students shared their experiences of near misses with cars on these.



Roundabouts

Some students did not like the roundabouts as they were seen as too small for trucks, trailers, etc.

Ideas to make Gore safer, easy to get around and vibrant



More outdoor facilities

Students thought that to make Gore safer and vibrant, the town would benefit from more outdoor facilities (such as a skate park) and picnic/seating areas throughout town and along the river.



Courtesy crossings

Change the courtesy crossings to zebra crossings, or provide more education in schools on the rules of a courtesy crossing.



Bike and scooter lanes

Students would like to see bike and scooter lanes be installed in Gore so that they can ride their bikes or scooters safely to school, friends and family houses.



Better road signage

Students wanted better road signage to make drivers and pedestrians aware of what is ahead and what to do when approaching crossings and roundabouts. Installing traffic lights was also mentioned as a way to slow traffic down.

Other suggestions mentioned...

- Better planning for future trials – give us a chance to participate
- More car parks
- Include East Gore in the trials – need a roundabout
- Better footpaths – this would encourage people to walk more
- Make Mataura more modern
- More rubbish bins
- Less closed streets

