

CCRG: Chair's Report: AGM 5 July 2021

Our 2020 AGM was deferred several times due to Covid lock downs but we have been fortunate that Auckland has been through the first half of 2021 without a lock down. We have now been able to return to our required AGM date around mid-year so the Chair's report for this agenda covers just six months.

The major issues for CCRG this year is how Auckland Council's budgetary constraints have impacted on a wide range of both capital and maintenance programs across the region, and more specifically in the city centre.

These include a large number of City Centre Targeted Rate projects being put on hold for 2-3 years, and no conversations yet as to when they might be re-instated. ACCAB agendas have been limited to one or two items and replaced with a range of workshops and on-line discussions/forums. Viv Beck resigned as Chair and the former Deputy Chair, Andrew Gaukrodger, was elected unopposed as Chair.

The most contentious issue for 2021 has been the ongoing saga over Waihorotiu/Queen Street Valley and the unsatisfactory state of the temporary works. This eventually resulted in a threatened legal challenge from business interests which was supported by Heart of the City. In turn, this has resulted in Council staff working with the business community to arrive at an agreed position. CCRG have serious concerns about some of these proposals – see details further on in this report.

A range of submissions have been made and these are available on the CCRG website. The Chair's report for the AGM this year focusses on the Outcome of the City Centre Master Plan and how CCRG can contribute to their achievement.

CCMP Outcomes	CCRG Initiatives	Current Situation
<u>Tāmaki Makaurau – Our Place in the World.</u> Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland's City Centre is a place where we actively recognise and celebrate our historic heritage as a driver of positive change and placemaking.	Continuous advocacy for Waihorotiu to be celebrated along and around the CRL Aotea station and surrounding areas and tell the story of W/QSV as a total entity not split into little bits that will not achieve a continuous path from K'Road to the end of Queen Wharf.	Continuing discussions with CRL landscape architects about the Aotea Station and above building area. Discussion continuing with AT and ACCAB on the need for W/QSV to be accorded the appropriate respect for the long history associated with Maori settlement and development.
<u>Connected City Centre</u> The city centre in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland should have safe, healthy and sustainable travel options both inwards and outwards. This will improve people's access and choice of transport modes.	CRL presented on upcoming intersection switch. Issues raised around the 2 trees removed = 1 tree replace RC conditions and who is ensuring this happens.	Intersection switch took place on 26 June. Discussion continuing with CRL and landscape architects re planting programmes to replace the 80+ trees removed for the CRL.
<u>Accessible and Inclusive City Centre</u> This outcome focuses on an accessible and inclusive city centre. We want a city centre that is welcoming to all in Tāmaki Makaurau.	Support provided to the cut-through routes project in the city centre. Met several times as members of the A4E Working Group to prepare the Project Business Case. AT lead moved to the Light Rail project so a new lead for A4E. CCRG will also	Cut through routes provided short cuts for all using the public realm and we look forward to the completed document being available on our website. CCRG reps focus discussion on delivery of CCMP Transformation Moves and Outcomes.

	be on the Working Group for the light rail project.	
<u>Green City Centre</u> This outcome is about restoring our biodiversity and ecological systems (Mauri Tu). Doing this will deliver a healthy and happy city centre in Tāmaki Makaurau.	Discussions and update on the Headland Park at Wynyard Point.	CCRG pleased with progress with 4ha land to be protected as public open space with all of the former fuel tanks now removed from this space.
<u>Public Life</u> Public space or realm is the glue that holds the city centre together, the canvas for public life. It needs to work well for everyone who spends time in Tāmaki Makaurau. This outcome aims to for everyone in the city centre to feel safe and comfortable, and experience enjoyment.	Discussed and agreed EMC and Freyberg Place need to be managed as one entity. Discussions around the proposed changed to the Trading and Events Public Places Bylaw. Discussion on	Agreement to present CCRG position on this to the WLB public forum – to be arranged. Submission to be prepared and address drones, filming, alcohol abuse, micro-mobility devices and disruption caused from filming activities.
<u>Residential City Centre Neighbourhoods</u> Auckland’s city centre is an increasingly popular place to live. As the city centre population grows and matures, this outcome shapes the city centre’s public realm, housing supply and social infrastructure to deliver a highly liveable city centre.	\$1,000 grant received from the WLB to develop a CC resident database. Initial meetings with key body corporate secretaries, property managers and real estate entities re sharing information via Affiliate Membership and advertising opportunities with CCRG social media platforms. Discussion with a range of parties on proposed changed to the Unit Titles Act.	Final round of meeting currently underway and a report expected for the August 2021 meeting to consider. Formal submission made on amendments to the Unit Titles Act around P=proxy voting, improved disclosure regime, BC Chairs vs BCC Chairs, BC Mangers/Sec. and the protection of BC funds plus the need to fund LTMP.
<u>Quality Built Form</u> This outcome aims to deliver a well-designed and planned city centre. It links the City Centre Masterplan and Waterfront Plan to Auckland's statutory planning and design tools.	Council reports and subsequent decision to sell the Downtown Carpark building makes little reference to resident needs and CCRG were not provided with any real opportunity for discussions or consultation.	CCRG followed up with statements of resident and climate change issues. Meeting with various parties arranged where CCRG’s position will be discussed.
<u>Heritage Defined City Centre</u> We want to increase understanding, protection and conservation of city centre heritage places, landscapes and stories. Our city centre should actively recognise and celebrate Auckland’s historic heritage as a	Innovating Streets programme agreed for Emily Place. Many months of discussions, plans, meetings, amendments, negotiations and final approval.	Work now underway on this project.

driver of positive change and placemaking.		
<u>Sustainable City Centre</u> This outcome aims to shape our approach to transport, air quality, water quality and climate change in the city centre. It focuses on the Auckland Climate Action Framework and Outcome 5 of the Auckland Plan 2050.	Continuous engagement with AT/AC since Nov 2020 AGM to develop W/QSV in accord with the CCMP Transitional Moves. Major issue is the lack of a Service/Delivery Plan that creates a total lottery as to where various essential traffic can use the street. Major concerns about air quality and the use of diesel buses on W/QSV given the ZEA statements in the CCMP.	Agreed Pilot between Shortland and Customs complete. Shortland to Mayoral to be upgraded in three stages. Major issue is still the lack of a Service/Delivery Plan to determine where other aspects of development can be located. Discussions with AT continuing via the ACCAB over the lack of AT focus on reducing unnecessary traffic/parking and both visual and air pollution in W/QSV.
<u>Prosperous City Centre</u> This outcome sets out practical ways to develop the city centre so it can continue to thrive as an economic centre and cater for the needs of our diverse population. The city centre will enable business and urban development, and deliver a globally-competitive quality of life within a flourishing economy.	Support provided for the establishment of a city centre market at Freyberg Place. Submissions to Councils LTP focus on the climate and environment issues and the support for whatever rates increase is required to deliver on this outcome. CCTR requested an increase in the residential portion of the CCTR to ensure that resident considerations are given higher priority across the council family.	A good initiative that provides advertising opportunities for CCRG. Busier in summer months than winter. Council increased rates above the suggested maximum so CCRG expect a major focus on climate change initiatives primarily by mitigating transport emissions.

CCRG Planning Programme

A draft programme was developed and discussed this year and focused on the following activities –

Membership

Communication with Members

Meeting Structure

Revenue Raising and Advertising

Events

Corporate Incentives

Media

Making these aspects of CCRG work well for us needs to be the focus of the upcoming committee. Since our AGM on 9 November 2020, I have attended 50 meetings related to the CCRG Chair's role and the Deputy Chair will have attended much the same number.

Committee Structure

To achieve our Planning Programme, we really need to organize committee roles around these functional areas. On that basis, the following five roles are recommended for the 2021/2022 CCRG year –

Chairperson – primary roles are our relationships with the Auckland Council family and meeting structure.

Deputy Chairperson – primary roles are to support/deputise for the chair and communication with members.

Secretary – primary roles are to prepare agendas/minutes and organize events.

Treasurer – primary roles are to keep accurate financial records and recommend revenue generating activities.

Media – primary role is to prepare media releases for Chair/Deputy Chair and organize corporate events to promote CCRG.

CCRG Position Statements

The following are our current Position Statements based on the Auckland Plan, and no changes are recommended for the coming year.

Belonging and Participating

The city centre is our home, it is where we belong, participate, eat, play and recreate - we are therefore the most vested in building a world class space for all.

Māori Identity and Wellbeing

CCRG will actively support the integration of Māori values into council planning, decision-making and delivery.

Homes and Places

Quality homes and great public spaces are the identifiers of cities – these are the places we all enjoy, remember, photograph, meet others, relax and play in, irrespective of which city we find them.

Transport and Access

CCRG will advocate for safe and reliable access for everyone with pedestrians, cyclists, micro-mobility, public transport, and service delivery having priority for all transport related decisions in the city centre.

Environment and Cultural Heritage

To ensure a healthy environment for all generations Do No Harm is CCRG's first development principle. Auckland's ability to understand, appreciate and celebrate our own, and other cultures and heritage, is the key to our economic future.

Opportunity and Prosperity.

CCRG supports the many learning institutions within the city centre in their lead role as developers of innovation, technology and entrepreneurship that will drive opportunities for all.

Governance

Open and transparent governance practices provide the essential structure that underpins the legitimacy of public sector leadership.

My thanks and appreciation to all of our committee and the many active members who support the work we do. A HUGE thank you to both Adam and Sri for the work they do to keep the wheels turning on much of the CCRG essential processes.

Our focus for the coming year needs to be expanding our resident database and raising revenue. This outreach will enable and drive our advocacy work for city centre residents.

Very constructive discussion are taking place currently on both of these initiatives and a verbal update will be provided on these at the meeting.

Ngā mihi nui
Noelene Buckland
Chair, CCRG.