

FERGUSON STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Safety is the driver of these changes.

We're planning some changes to Ferguson Street to make the area safer, and help traffic around our city centre flow more smoothly.

The project area runs from South Street to just past PAK' n SAVE, and includes changes to both the Pitt Street and Linton Street intersections, and the widening of Ferguson Street.

These safety improvements are crucial. Over the past ten years there have been at least 34 crashes along this stretch, and these two intersections.

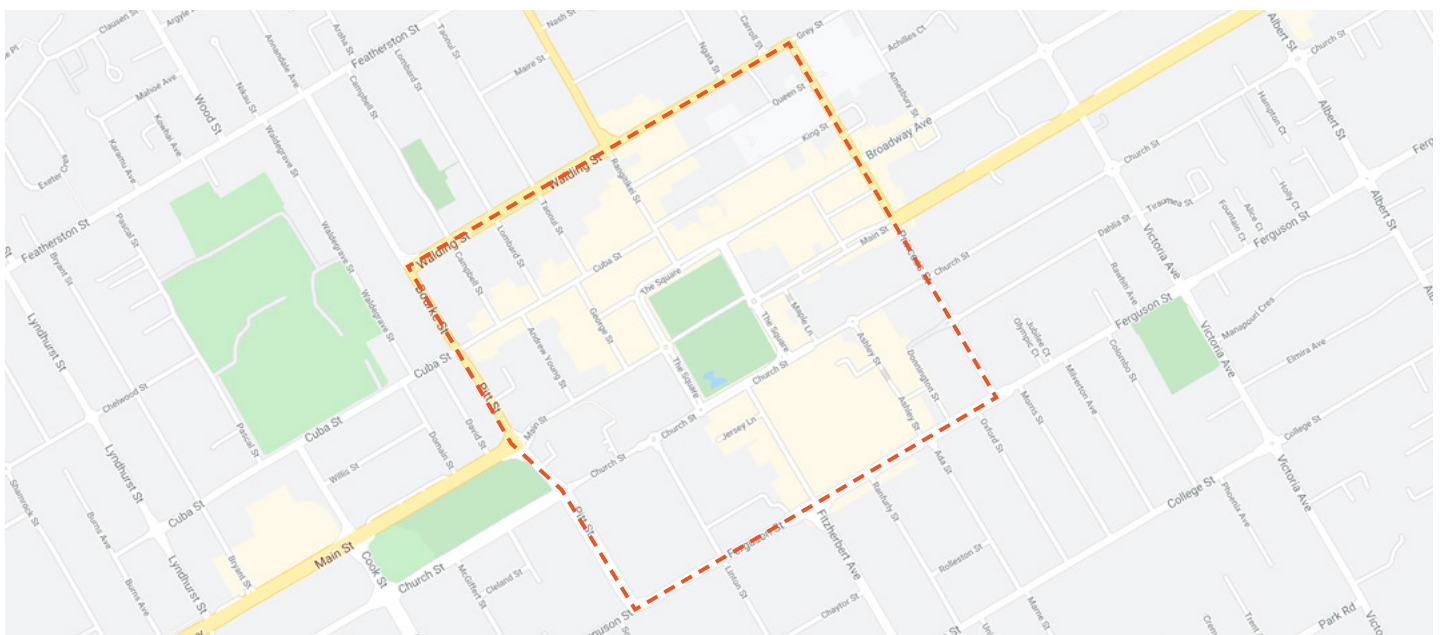
One of those crashes was fatal, one caused serious injuries and 17 caused other injuries. These statistics only account for crashes where Police were called to the scene. That means there are likely many more minor crashes and near misses.

We also want to make it easier to get around Palmy. This project will help bring that vision to life by encouraging people to use what we call

our Inner Ring Road around Ferguson, Pitt, Grey and Princess Streets. This is the main route to get around the City Centre, allowing for a much quicker and more reliable route. The Inner Ring Road is also be the primary place for freight vehicles.

This means everyone will be able to get across town more safely and efficiently, and our city centre will become a destination rather than a shortcut across town.

These improvements aren't just about people driving. We want to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists too. In this leaflet we explain what we're doing for pedestrians, and why these changes won't have dedicated cycle lanes on the road.



This map shows our Inner Ring Road

Ferguson Street to be four lanes.



Ferguson Street between Fitzherbert Ave and Linton Street is four lanes. This is the same as the other streets on our ring road. But, the section of Ferguson Street between Linton and Pitt Streets is only currently two lanes. We're going to be widening the road to four lanes.

We will widen the road by using the large berm that runs along the Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School (PNINS) side of the street. We previously bought this land and helped the school change their entrance to Linton Street some years ago, in anticipation of the road widening. We also purchased some land at the intersection of Pitt and Ferguson for this to occur. A few years ago, the road was designated in our District Plan to be widened, and we upgraded the stormwater pipe in the area to help reduce the chance of flooding in heavy rain.

As we widen the road, we will re-construct the kerbs and footpaths in this area, and install a shared path for pedestrians and people on bikes and scooters, in front of the school.

The widening of the road will result in a small number of on-street carparks being removed. These are primarily in front of the school, and directly across.

Cycleways won't feature on the road itself as these improvements are anticipated to make roads with existing cycle lanes much quieter and safer.

Once construction is complete, traffic lights on the Inner Ring Road will be re-phased around the city centre to efficiently move everyone around.

Pitt/Ferguson Intersection to have traffic lights.



The Pitt/Ferguson Street intersection is notorious for being confusing and dangerous. Our plan is to install traffic lights at this intersection instead.

Pedestrians will be able to cross safely at the new traffic lights at the Pitt/Ferguson Street intersection, meaning the existing zebra crossings along Ferguson Street will not be needed anymore.

Exiting Linton Street to become left-turn only.



At the Linton/Ferguson intersection the main cause of crashes is people turning right across the other lanes of Ferguson Street, or trying to cut across the street entirely. Once the road is widened to four lanes, this manoeuvre would be even more difficult to do safely most times of the day.

As a result, we are going to change this intersection to make it left turn only to get onto Ferguson St. This is similar to what we've done recently at Pioneer/Lyndhurst and Walding/Taonui. This would apply whether you were driving towards the city, or towards Park Rd.

We are also installing a raised platform on the Park Road end of Linton Street, by the intersection to ensure the safety of pedestrians - mainly kids - crossing Linton Street to access Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School.

The pedestrian waiting points on each side of Linton Street will be upgraded.

While we want pedestrians to use the traffic lights to cross, we know some people will still cross Ferguson Street by PAK' n SAVE. For this reason we will also be adding a waiting point close to the PAK' n SAVE entry.