Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Invercargill "world first" needs feedback from potential users

Users of a proposed world first pedestrian crossing system which will be implemented in Invercargill, are being asked for their feedback in an online survey by the Invercargill City Council.

The changes to traffic light pedestrian crossings would reduce current crossing times for general pedestrians while providing more time for those who need it, such as elderly and disabled people. It not only benefits motorists and reduces pollution but also benefits slower moving pedestrians, said Council Senior Traffic Management Officer Eddie Cook.

"On a normal push of the pedestrian crossing button, it will mean a reduced walking time for pedestrians and won't make a sound when it is time to cross - reducing noise pollution. A prolonged push (approximately three seconds) will vibrate to make the user aware, and will provide a longer walk, then make an audible sound to let them know when to cross. The crossings will still include a locator beacon noise for the blind," he said.

Mr Cook said the idea came to him in 2012 while undertaking research for his Masters in Transportation. He found that although some councils globally (including Timaru) had implemented a form of audio alerts for different users he was unable to find other cities providing crossings with additional benefits such as differing crossing speeds.

The survey involving 20 questions, is an important part of the trial and will be used to validate the assumptions made in the rationalisation process said Mr Cook. "We are inviting all pedestrians to undertake the survey. It's a behavioural survey and it will allow us to understand better how pedestrians behave at traffic signals."

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The survey can be accessed via this link: (https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SJC7M7T), or participants can contact Mr Cook on his ph number 021 221 8764 or (03) 211 1694 or email, eddie.cook@icc.govt.nz for a document or phone survey.

ENDS.

Inquiries, please contact Eddie Cook on 211 221 8764 or (03) 211 1694, or email eddie.cook@icc.govt.nz.

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