

The Strand / Cass Street Hui 3 - Group Minutes

Location: Haratu Kororāreka Marae

Date: 3.00pm to 5.00pm, 15 December 2025

Attendees

FNDC

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Roger Ackers | Chair – FNDC Group Manager, Planning and Policy (Apologies) |
| Tammy Wooster | FNDC Manager, Integrated Planning |
| Jaye Michalick | FNDC Team Leader, Growth Planning and Placemaking |
| Janine Worrall | FNDC Support Officer, Integrated Planning |
| Jane Hindle | FNDC Member Bay of Islands Whangaroa Community Board |

Roading Working Group Members (voting rights)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Debra Rewiri | Chairperson of Kororāreka Marae (Tangata Whenua) |
| Katarina Lavender | Disability |
| Shane Madden | Business |
| David McKenzie | Russell Protection Society |
| Adam Davey | Community |
| Jacqui Madelin | Community |
| Emily Rust | Disability |
| Adam Cooper | Business |
| Bruce Mitchinson | Russell Wharf Trust |
| Marsha Davis | Tangata Whenua |

Hawthorn Geddes (Whangarei)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| James Blackburn | Civil & Environmental Engineer – Director |
| Conal Summers | Senior Engineer (Apologies) |

Heritage New Zealand

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| Bill Edwards | Manager – Northland |
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| Item | Topic | Discussion |
|------|-------------------------|--|
| | | Opening Karakia led by Debra Rewiri. |
| 1. | Introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions by all participants. |
| 2. | TOR Confirmation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim of the Placemaking Project discussed which is to provide a safer and better environment for the large number of pedestrians that enjoy the Strand and Waterfront. <p><i>VOTE 1: Approving the terms of reference.</i></p> <p><i>Vote in Favour:</i></p> <p><i>Debra Rewiri</i> <i>Katarina Lavender</i> <i>Shane Madden</i> <i>David McKenzie</i> <i>Adam Davey</i> <i>Jacqui Madelin</i> <i>Emily Rust</i> <i>Adam Cooper</i> <i>Bruce Mitchinson</i> <i>Marsha Davis</i></p> |

3. Consider the Functions of Cass Street that inform the Street Design

Cass Street is the heart of the village and a designated heritage precinct. It serves as a gateway for visitors arriving by sea and functions as a key meeting point. The street intersects ocean and land, making it a critical link between the waterfront and the town centre. It provides access for a critical service of refuelling at the wharf. The goal is to create a shared space that balances pedestrian safety, business access, and cultural and heritage values.

- Identified as the “village heart.”
- Strategic importance for design and placemaking confirmed.

VOTE 2: Implement a temporary barrier along the old man seat area to protect pedestrians using the walkway.

Vote in Favour:

*Debra Rewiri
Katarina Lavender
David McKenzie
Jacqui Madelin
Adam Cooper
Marsha Davis*

Aim vs Implementation:

- Clarified that reducing traffic is an implementation detail, not part of the aim.
- Aim should focus on creating a safer, better environment for pedestrians.

Shared Zone Guidelines:

- Vehicle speed and visual cues are key to creating safe shared spaces.
- Access for properties and businesses must remain (not a full restriction on vehicles).

Strategic Functions Identified:

- Cass Street as a café and village hub.
- Welcome point for visitors arriving by sea.
- Tourist appeal and heritage preservation.
- Meeting place for community.
- Accessible parking and loading zones.
- Wharf access for commercial needs (e.g., fuel).
- Heritage precinct considerations.
- Current role as a through road.
- Intersection between ocean and land.

Cultural and Settlement Context:

- Future involvement of Wakaiira tanga hapū in decision-making noted.
- Heritage and historic significance emphasised.

4. Presentation of Draft Concept Designs

Shared Space Concept:

- Prioritise pedestrian safety while maintaining access for businesses and deliveries.

Traffic Flow:

- One-way system: Northbound for public traffic; restricted southbound access for loading and wharf operations.
- Gateway feature on the eastern side to signal entry into shared space.

Parking:

- Convert existing spaces to chevron layout for safer manoeuvring.
- Include accessible parking (3.6m wide) within the shared zone.

Visual Cues:

- Apply heritage-coloured surfacing (e.g., terracotta resin-bound) to define shared space boundaries.

Signage:

- Keep signs short, clear, and minimal to reduce visual clutter.

Loading Zones:

- Maintain and extend loading zones for commercial vehicles and wharf access.

- Clearly marked and time-limited (10 minutes).

Bus Stop:

- Retain functionality for tour buses and other services.

Safety and Aesthetic Considerations

- Raised table crossing recommended but will depend on cost.
- Bollards with a nautical theme proposed for pedestrian protection.
- Wheel stops discouraged due to trip hazards.

5. Group Discussion on Concept Designs

- Parking Congestion: Seasonal influx of vehicles (cars and campervans) overwhelms Cass Street for approximately four weeks each year. Parking issues have been under discussion for 6–8 years within the Community Board's Strategic Plan.
- Signage and Routing: Visitors lack clear guidance; Google Maps directions are outdated since September.
- Enforcement: Limited speed and parking enforcement; locals often ignore time restrictions.
- Community Concerns: Resistance to strict enforcement and fear of losing Russell's identity as a heritage town.
- Mixed views on enforcement and seasonal rules.
- Some members advocate for minimal change.
- Emphasis on preserving Russell's heritage and character while improving functionality.

Proposed changes to the draft:

- Change accessible park to chevron layout
- Make wording of signage more concise
- Remove 3x planter boxes shown along south-western edge of carriageway and replace with proposed 10min loading zone to facilitate wharf/vessel drop off requirements.
- Change colour of spread and sprinkle to an approved Russell Heritage palette colour, and consider painting the existing pavers the same colour
- Replace wheel stops along south-western edge of carriageway with nautical theme bollards proposed for pedestrian protection.
- An alternative was suggested of Māori carvings, to continue entrance theme.
- Consider alternative sign restricting traffic south onto The Strand

6. Update on installation on signage, consider wheel stops request, and legal status of items removed.

Update given by Tammy Wooster

- Went back up Tuesday as contractors advised and fixed to a post.
- In terms of removal of items and legal action – this is still being investigated. No update at this stage
- RFS was raised by member of the public about the wheel stop. As vehicles parking onto footpath and leaving limited space to walk.

VOTE 3: In favour of replacing Barrells as a short-term solution.

Vote in Favour:

*Debra Rewiri
Jacqui Madelin
Adam Cooper
Marsha Davis*

7. Confirmation of Previous Hui Records (Hui 1 and 2)

VOTE 4: Approval of Hui Records 1 and 2 and to be published online.

Vote in Favour:

*Debra Rewiri
Katarina Lavender
Shane Madden
David McKenzie*

Adam Davey
Jacqui Madelin
Adam Cooper
Bruce Mitchinson
Marsha Davis

8. Next Steps

- Issue final version of TOR
- Arrange for road cones to be installed
- Confirmed commitment to shared space as the guiding principle for design of Cass St.
- Agreement on site survey, revised concept plan

Survey:

VOTE 5: In favour of getting the Survey done.

Vote in Favour:

Debra Rewiri
Katarina Lavender
Shane Madden
David McKenzie
Adam Davey
Jacqui Madelin
Emily Rust
Adam Cooper
Bruce Mitchinson
Marsha Davis

- To be conducted in late January 2026 or early February.

Concept Revision:

- Prepare updated drawings and cost estimates based on feedback.

Temporary Measures:

- Reinstalled signage (approved at earlier hui).
- Use cones as interim barriers (approved by vote).

VOTE 6: In favour of putting up temporary cones.

Vote in Favour:

Katarina Lavender
Adam Davey
Jacqui Madelin
Emily Rust
Adam Cooper
Bruce Mitchinson

Council Role:

- Arrange cones to be installed and work with engineer to arrange survey.

Closing Karakia led by Debra Rewiri.

Actions and Timeframes

| Item | Task | Lead | Due By |
|------|--|-------------|--------|
| 1. | Site surveying targeted for end January/beginning February. | FNDC | ASAP |
| 2. | James to provide updated concept plan based on site survey information in time for next meeting | James/Conal | |
| 3. | Cones to be placed as temporary measure demarcating pedestrian route along south-western edge of Cass St carriageway. | FNDC | ASAP |
| 4. | Next meeting scheduled, after Waitangi Weekend | Dr Pratt | |
| 5. | Workshop 3 record draft to be circulate asap, with working group members to provide feedback via email, to allow final version of the record to be accepted via email. | FNDC | ASAP |