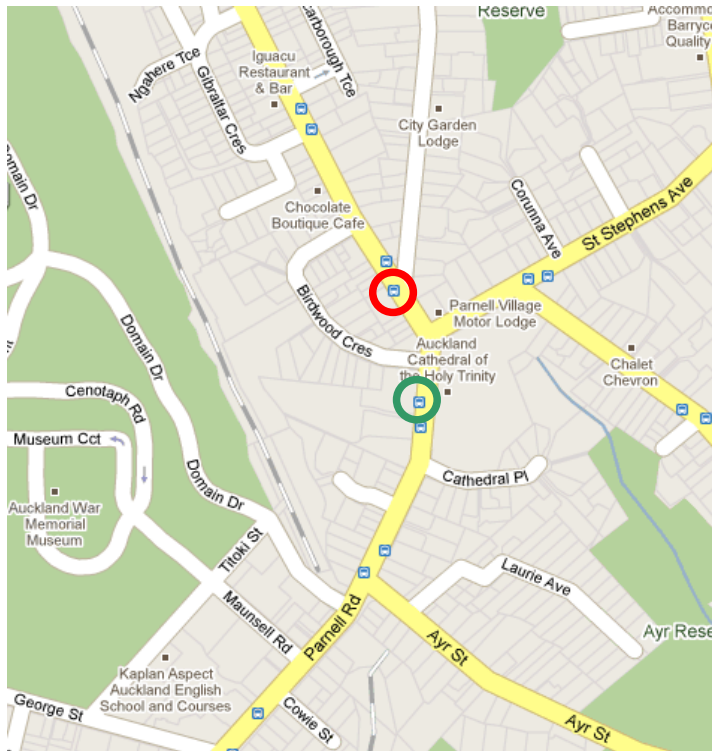


# Proposed changes to Bus Stops in upper Parnell Road

A proposal to Auckland City Council from Parnell Inc. businesses and residents

Parnell Inc. proposes that Auckland City Council change the location of bus stops on upper Parnell Road to better suit the needs of both businesses and residents. This proposal is supported by the Hobson Community Board.



## Background

The shopping area at the top of Parnell Road (between lower Birdwood Crescent and St Stephens Avenue) is served by a long-standing city-bound bus stop alongside The Ridge building at 383-395 Parnell Road (see uppermost bus stop - circled in red - at left).

While repairs were being made to The Ridge from 2008-2009, a temporary replacement bus stop was created below this original stop, at 367-379 Parnell Road.

When repairs were completed at The Ridge in 2009, and construction barriers removed from the original bus stop, the temporary bus stop markings were left in place pending a Council review of parking zoning in this area.

The two sets of bus stop markings on this stretch of Parnell Road are now causing confusion for bus passengers

and NZ Bus drivers. The bus stop is also used as a bus parking area by tourist buses, which is not a permitted usage.

This situation, with two bus stops at this location, is not acceptable to local businesses. Resolution of the issue has raised questions about which of the two marked bus stops should stay as the permanent bus stop.

At Parnell Inc.'s March 2, 2010 meeting with local businesses and residents, additional issues were raised:

1. Vehicles leaving The Ridge (51 car parks) and from the rear of Baran de Bordeaux, 367 Parnell Road (18 car parks), have restricted access and visibility when buses are parked.
2. The speaker function of the VIPID bus information system (located at the lower side of The Ridge), is a major annoyance for residents, particularly when activated at night, often just for fun by passersby.
3. The noise and fumes of buses stopping below The Ridge apartments, within metres of bedrooms, is another annoyance for residents.

## Proposal

Parnell Inc., with the support of local businesses and residents (see attached petition), therefore proposes the following solution:

That the both bus stops on this section of Parnell Road are removed and that bus users instead board city-bound buses at the stop located near St Mary's Close, under 100 metres away, opposite Holy Trinity Cathedral (see bus stop circled in green – the lowermost circle in the map on page 1).

The benefits of this proposal are:

1. There would be little inconvenience for commuters who regularly catch city-bound buses at the current bus stop, or for visitors, as the proposed alternative bus stop is very close by. Additionally, the next bus stop down, at 285 Parnell Road (essenze) is within easy walking distance.
2. Residents in and close to The Ridge apartments would enjoy peaceful nights, following removal of the VPID system. (A future VPID system at the St Mary's Close bus stop would be further away from nearby residents than the VPID system outside The Ridge.)
3. Removal of the two bus stops at The Ridge (and below) would allow the creation (restoration) of an estimated eight additional car parks – a major benefit for local businesses and residents.
4. Visitors to Parnell alighting the bus at St Mary's Close would enjoy a walk into the Parnell shopping area from the beginning of the shopping strip at Parnell Road/St Stephens Ave. Greater pedestrian traffic would help increase the economic vitality of the area.