

8. JUBILEE STREET EXTENSION

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the proposal to extend Jubilee Street by way of a new link road between Bamford Street and Rutherford Street. Other traffic management proposals are planned for the area including a diagonal road closure at the Bamford Street/Barton Street intersection.

This report has also been referred to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board.

BACKGROUND

Much progress has been made on the development of a scheme plan for the new road along with traffic management proposals for the Garlands Road/Rutherford Street link in the ring road route and changes at the Bamford Street/Jubilee Street and Barton Street/Bamford Street intersections. Timeframes for the project have been established with construction likely to commence during February 2003.

CONSULTATION

Two plans were circulated to businesses and residents in the area late last year and 26 formal responses were received from this communication with the local community. We also took the opportunity to speak individually to many of the residents and businesses that will be affected by the proposals. Although one or two businesses had reservations whether or not the new road would benefit the area there was an overwhelming response from residents for measures to be taken to reduce traffic speeds along Rutherford Street and manage trucking movements through the area.

All but one person was supportive of the proposed diagonal road closure at the Barton Street/Bamford Street intersection. The alternative plan (to restrict, rather than ban truck movements at the intersection), was not favoured by anyone with whom we have had contact with. It is therefore recommended that procedures be commenced to formally close a portion of the roadway across Barton Street at its intersection with Bamford Street.

Most of the concerns for vehicle movements in the area related to existing traffic conditions on the narrow Garlands Road bridge over the Heathcote River and the poor visibility afforded to drivers of vehicles exiting from Connell Street. Some businesses, along with our auditors who carried out a scheme plan audit of the project, pointed out some difficulty that maybe experienced by the close proximity of the new road to the intersection of Rutherford Street and King Edward Terrace.

The opportunity was taken to canvas businesses on the possibility of banning right turns from Rutherford Street into King Edward Terrace. Although the majority of businesses were not adverse to this suggestion others (including the Medical Centre/Clinic on the corner of King Edward Terrace and Rutherford Street) suggested that this would be detrimental to their operations. It is likely that we will recommend that the "status quo" remain and that decisions on future access to King Edward Terrace and Connell Street be held over until the proposed traffic management proposals are implemented and the new road opened to traffic.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – GARLANDS ROAD/RUTHERFORD STREET

A leaflet is being circulated to residents and businesses in the area confirming a need to press on with the proposal to introduce a flush median along Rutherford Street between Connell Street and Barton Street. This plan was accepted by people who responded to the "Jubilee Street extension" leaflet. We propose to extend the flush median and associated traffic management measures along the section of Garlands Road from Connell Street through to Maunsell Street on the approach to the railway and the traffic signals at Opawa Road.

Details of this proposal are set out on the plan attached to this report. Transit NZ, as part of the work that was carried out at the recently installed traffic signals at the Opawa Road/Garlands Road intersection, have recently filed plans to upgrade the road markings on the Garlands Road approach to the railway and introduce a right turn lane at the Maunsell Street intersection. The proposal, to extend this work along Garlands Road, across the Heathcote River bridge and along Rutherford Street to the Barton Street intersection, includes a right turn lane and "give way" sign at the Tanner Street intersection, marked cycle lanes and some increased bans on kerbside parking to facilitate traffic flow. If this plan is implemented traffic conflicts at various intersections will be improved and speed management issues addressed along with the merging problems that occur on the present roadway over the Heathcote River bridge. Contact has already been made with businesses which maybe affected by the increased bans on kerbside parking.

CONCLUSION

Positive feedback has been forthcoming from businesses and residences in the area to the proposals being made to improve traffic management along the Garlands Road/Rutherford Street link in the ring road route and for the works associated with the proposed Jubilee Street extension. Although the diagonal closure at the Barton Street/Bamford Street intersection is not critical to any of the major works proposed for the area, it is advisable that the Council formally notify this work as soon as practicable.

A TWO STAGE PROJECT

The traffic management plan for Garlands Road and Rutherford Street should be implemented pending resolution of any outstanding concerns of businesses in the area. The design process for the new extension of Jubilee Street between Bamford Street and Rutherford Street will be commenced early in the new financial year with a view to tendering the work in September 2002.

HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board, at its meeting held on Wednesday 3 April, approved the traffic management plan for Garlands Road and Rutherford Street and has recommended to the Council that procedures be commenced to formally close a portion of the roadway across Barton Street at its intersection with Bamford Street.

Recommendation: That the Committee continue to support the two stages of this project.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That staff continue with implementation of the Jubilee Street extension and the traffic management proposals for Rutherford Street and Garlands Road as detailed in the report.