

25. PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS: OXFORD TERRACE/WORCESTER STREET INTERSECTION

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Peter Atkinson, Transport Planner – Central City, DDI 941-8088
--	---

The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval to remove the traffic signals at the intersection of Oxford Terrace/Worcester Street and to install two new pedestrian crossings. The pedestrian crossings would replace the traffic signals and would be located across Oxford Terrace, south of Worcester Street, and across Worcester Street east of Oxford Terrace.

The principle reasons to change the traffic control at this intersections are:

- To provide pedestrians with a better level of service.
- To reduce accidents.
- To reduce both pedestrian and travel delay.
- To provide a traffic environment in accordance with the Central City strategy.
- To recognise the changing traffic function in Oxford Terrace.
- To provide a more cost effective form of traffic control.

Traffic volumes through the intersection have decreased over time. These reductions or redirection in traffic volumes have occurred as a result of; the Boulevard Development, the creation of a Pedestrian Mall across the Avon River on Worcester Street, increases in capacity of alternative routes, the relocation of buses to the Bus Exchange, and the widening of the footpath along Oxford Terrace. Present day traffic volumes through the Oxford Terrace/Worcester Street intersection seldom exceed 500 vehicles per hour and the current traffic signals do not provide pedestrians with a high level of service, or maintain a high degree of safety, and are no longer necessary to proportion traffic delays between adjacent legs of the intersection. Any of the proposed changes in Cathedral Square are not expected to significantly affect the traffic conditions at this intersection and if a one-way pattern was selected, they could be further reduced.

The intersection was originally an X intersection and now operates as a T-junction. The greatest numbers of users through the intersection are pedestrians. The major pedestrian movements through the intersection are across the southern leg of Oxford Terrace (60%) and across Worcester Street (25%). Unfortunately, there are a high percentage of pedestrians who do not comply with the traffic lights (over 20%) and the number of accidents involving pedestrians is high (four injury accidents in the last five years).

To give pedestrians a higher priority and to enhance the pedestrian character of this locality, it is proposed to install a pedestrian crossing across Oxford Terrace south of Worcester Street and across Worcester Street just east of Oxford Terrace. The pedestrian crossing across Oxford Terrace will include a raised section to maintain an appropriate speed environment along this section of Oxford Terrace. It is not possible to provide a similar raised section on Worcester Street without considerable expense due to the position of the tram lines, however, the proposed 'stop' control on Worcester Street at the intersection will create the appropriate speed environment.

No separate provision is proposed on Oxford Terrace north of Worcester Street. This is because the width of Oxford Terrace is narrower and pedestrians cross over this whole section of Oxford Terrace in front of Rydges Hotel and Our City Building.

Discussions have been held with the operators of the tram and they are supportive of the removal of the signals. They support the pedestrian crossing across Oxford Terrace, as this would provide sufficient gaps in the traffic stream to negotiate the intersection.

No provision has been allowed for this project in the budget, however, the project can be funded as a part of the Straven Road project currently under construction. The traffic signals taken from Worcester Street/Oxford Terrace can be installed at Straven Road and the savings on that project from not having to purchase new signals will more than cover the cost of the pedestrian facilities at Worcester Street/Oxford Terrace.

CONCLUSION

The removal of the traffic signals and the introduction of pedestrian crossings on Oxford Terrace south of Worcester Street and on Worcester Street east of Oxford Terrace will significantly improve pedestrian safety. The project can be completed within existing capital budgets.

Staff

Recommendation:

1. That the traffic signals at the intersection of Oxford Terrace and Worcester Street be removed.
2. That a pedestrian crossing be located on Oxford Terrace south of Worcester Street.
3. That a pedestrian crossing be located on Worcester Street east of Oxford Terrace.
4. That a speed platform be included in the pedestrian crossing on Oxford Terrace.
5. That a compulsory stop sign be placed on Worcester Street at its intersection with Oxford Terrace.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

That the above recommendation be adopted.