

## 6. HEATON STREET - ST GEORGES HOSPITAL ENTRANCE

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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on matters relating to the new Heaton Street entrance into St Georges Hospital.

### BACKGROUND

The Board, at its meeting on 29 April 2003, considered a report from the City Streets Manager relating to the management of traffic at the new entrance to the hospital in Heaton Street. The Board approved a "no stopping at any time" restriction along the south side of Heaton Street on the approaches to the new driveway entrance to the hospital.

During discussion on the proposal to ban parking, Board members became aware of concerns that were being expressed by residents about the impact the new entrance will have the local community. The City Streets Manager was asked to consider traffic management in the area and report back any changes that will need to be made once the entrance has become fully operational.

The first action to be taken was the ban on parking either side of the vehicle entrance to ensure that sight visibility is maintained for motorists approaching the new vehicle entrance. The City Streets Unit has now begun monitoring traffic in the area with a view to preparing a traffic management plan for the section of Heaton Street between Papanui Road and Elmwood Park. The plan will take into account vehicle and pedestrian movements associated with St Georges Hospital and Heaton Street Intermediate School.

### DISCUSSION

Since the Board meeting in April, Council Officers have been involved in a number of discussions with local residents and sought advice from hospital management, their consultants and the contractors for the redevelopment project. Councillor Wright arranged a meeting between residents David Lynch, Antony Gough, City Streets Manager, Stephen Matheson and Network Operations Team Leader Brian Neill to discuss outstanding issues that the residents group felt had not been addressed during the planning stages for the hospital expansion siteworks that are now nearing completion. An onsite meeting was arranged and took place on 8 May 2003 with a small group of residents who were immediately affected by the new entrance, the General Manager of the hospital, the Project Manager, Engineers Representative and landscape architects.

The meeting was fruitful in that it went a considerable way to allaying residents' fears about the appearance and form of the new entrance that will impact on the local residential community. Councillor Wright and Network Operations Team Leader Brian Neill attended the meeting which proved to be informative from everyone's point of view. Few matters were left outstanding and through subsequent discussions with residents, hospital management and their contractors, the City Streets Unit is satisfied that the new facility will operate efficiently with landscape enhancements that will mitigate the impact that this facility will have on the surrounding residential community.

The final stage of the construction project (as it relates to the Heaton Street entrance) is now underway and will be completed within a few weeks. When the new Heaton Street entrance is fully operational, the Papanui Road entrance into the hospital complex will be restricted to left turns in and left turns out only which will assist traffic safety along this section of Papanui Road and increase the level of service to traffic travelling along the arterial route.

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Once the new entrance is fully operational, the City Streets Unit monitoring of traffic will be stepped up and a plan put in place to assess movements along Heaton Street between Papanui Road and Elmwood Park. Kerbside parking in the vicinity of Heaton Intermediate School (of concern to residents) will be monitored and action taken to remedy any problems that are created by parents dropping off or picking up students from Heaton Intermediate School. On street parking is likely to become more of an issue as hospital services are expanded and will need to be managed along with traffic movements along Heaton Street which is a minor arterial route.

The City Streets Unit is not aware of any particular problems with access to Heaton Intermediate School. However, traffic behaviour at the school patrol crossing has been questioned on a number of occasions. The school along with local residents will be consulted at the appropriate time.

## **CONCLUSION**

Matters relating to the construction of the new vehicle entrance to St Georges Hospital in Heaton Street have been resolved. Although some residents continue to have concerns about the planning process relating to this project there is a consensus that the project, upon completion, will incorporate sufficient landscape features to mitigate the impact on the local residential community.

The ongoing monitoring of traffic flows through the section of Heaton Street between Papanui Road and Elmwood Park will assist the Council in its planning for managing traffic along the arterial route in the future.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.