

8. NEW BRIGHTON ROAD - PEDESTRIAN REFUGE

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcome of the consultation on the New Brighton Road pedestrian refuge island and seek approval to proceed with final design, tender and construction.

BACKGROUND

New Brighton Road is an arterial road that bisects Burwood Park. The activity on the park generates high demand for parking and crossing facilities.

The Board has provided funding of \$9,000 from the 2003/04 Project funds for a pedestrian refuge island on New Brighton Road to serve park users.

A proposal has been developed in conjunction with the traffic management proposals (as outlined in the report to the Board meeting on 12 May 2003), for the placement of a pedestrian refuge island and kerb build out in New Brighton Road. The position of the island was determined by the activities that occur on the park, the existing pathway in the park and the need for something central that would serve all park users.

The Parks and Waterways Unit is looking at an application from the Shirley Rugby Club to move their clubrooms to the Cricket Club pavilion, north of the road. This will create a greater pedestrian movement across New Brighton Road because the rugby fields are to the south of the road.

Car parking in the area is of premium importance when the park is in use. The proposed work will remove four car parks on the south side because of the kerb build out and 12 extra spaces (four are already removed with no stopping lines on the bend) on the north side because of the flush median and island. However, with the removal of the two bus stops in the vicinity of the refuge island, that are not frequently used, parking will be created and the net loss of spaces will be 13.

DISCUSSION

Sixty publicity leaflets were distributed to all the residential properties bounding the southern section of Burwood Park (that is, along Cresswell Avenue) and posted out to the eight sports clubs that use the park, and the three residents groups in the area, in mid-May.

Eight replies were received, including one from a sports club and one from the Horseshoe Lake Residents' Group. Six of the replies were in favour, one did not state whether they supported the proposal or not, and the Residents' Group is against the work.

Other concerns raised were:

- The need for another pedestrian refuge by the bus stops near Windsor House - *will be investigated as part of the traffic management through this area.*
- Would the pedestrian refuge have pedestrian signs and would it be lit - *the lighting will be up graded in the vicinity of the refuge if necessary.*
- There is a need to retain sufficient parking for the park activities - *this was considered as part of the overall safety of park users.*
- East Shirley Cricket Club - need to be able to get the roller across to the southern pitch - *this access will be retained.*
- Would like speed humps along this section of New Brighton Road to slow traffic - *not appropriate in this roading environment.*
- The Residents' Group does not support the work because of the possible merger of the sports clubs and the need for access to the facilities. The Group considers that this work will block the access for vehicles. The Group is also concerned about the lack of parking in and around the park and the number of cars that use the pathway as access to the park now. *Access to the pathway for emergency and delivery vehicles will not be blocked. It is not an access for cars to use to park on the grounds. The amount of parking that will be lost has been kept to a minimum.*

CONCLUSION

As the majority of the responses to the proposed pedestrian refuge have been in favour and the refuge meets a need for park users, retains as much parking as is possible without compromising safety, and fits with traffic management proposals for New Brighton Road, staff recommend that the work proceed.

The estimated cost of the project is \$25,000. The funding from the Board will cover the pedestrian island and City Streets Unit funding will cover the kerb build out.

Staff

Recommendation: That the New Brighton Road pedestrian refuge island and kerb build out project proceed to final design, tender, and construction.

Deputy Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendation be adopted.