

## 7. SALTAIRE STREET - A LIVING STREET

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Streets Manager	<b>Author</b> Paul Burden - Living Streets Advocate, DDI 941-8836
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The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval to distribute the draft Living Street scheme plan for Saltaire Street to the community for further comment.

### BACKGROUND

Saltaire Street is a short street linking Marriotts Road with Bower Avenue. It is scheduled for kerb and channel renewal in the 2004/05 financial year and a budget of \$195,000 has been allocated. It is part of the Living Streets showpiece project portfolio.

Approval was given by the Board at its 14 July 2003 meeting to follow the Community Based Collaboration Process for Living Streets (attached). A public meeting and workshop was held on Monday 11 August 2003 from which draft objectives and options to meet these objectives were developed. The Board endorsed these objectives and approved the release of the draft options for community comment at the 15 September 2003 Board meeting. A second public meeting was then held on 13 October 2003. At this meeting those in attendance showed overwhelming support for the option favoured in this report.

### WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

We are currently at stage 6 of the process; "Present Draft Option for Stakeholder Review" (see attachment). The public meetings and workshops have been well attended and there is considerable passion and enthusiasm for this project.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives were formulated by the project team directly from the submissions, both internal and external, and were endorsed by the Board at the 15 September 2003 Board meeting and agreed upon by the community at the 13 October 2003 public meeting. The objectives are:

1. To significantly reduce the volume of through traffic.
2. To reduce the speed of traffic.
3. To enhance the streetscape.

### OPTIONS

Five options were developed to meet these objectives. They ranged in severity in terms of discouraging traffic speed and volume. All included significant improvement to the streetscape. There was much discussion concerning all options, however the meeting showed unanimous support for two options that included either full or partial closure. These options were considered to clearly meet "all" the objectives whereas the other options only partly, or some considered "failed", to meet the first objective.

### PREFERRED OPTION

After discussing the probable delays and legal implications of the full closure option, the meeting decided to give full support to the "partial" closure option (attached). This option permits left turns only into Saltaire Street at the Marriotts Road intersection. The roadway would be narrowed to around 9 metres allowing wider berm areas and street trees. The meeting also supported the introduction of some form of community art and the display of some historical information. A minor amendment was sought to allow the provision of street parking outside 5 Saltaire Street.

### DISCUSSION

Reaching agreement on the first objective was a critical step along the path towards the final option that will eventually emerge through this process. Saltaire Street carries around 2000 vehicles on average per day. The preferred option will reduce this volume to fewer than 200 vehicles per day.

This will generate proportionate increases in traffic volumes on the surrounding network in particular Bower Avenue, Rookwood Avenue and Marriotts Road.

The issue of traffic migration was debated at the September Board meeting and projected volumes for the surrounding network relative to each option were presented. The projected increases for Bower and Rookwood can be justified given their arterial and collector status respectively. The projected increase for Marriotts Road is not so easily justified due to its "local road" status. However, there is a clear indication contained in the North New Brighton Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (1992) that the section of Marriotts Road south of Pacific Road will continue to fulfil a pseudo "collector" role. This is inferred by the absence of any proposed traffic restraints in this section. This is most likely attributed to the extensive size of the catchment serviced by Pacific Road and Tedder Avenue.

The issue of parity is likely to be raised through the submission process by residents living in the wider community who either currently use Saltaire Street for accessing the area or who will experience an increase in existing traffic volume due to migration. Although individual letters containing an invitation to participate in the last public meeting and workshop were hand delivered to those residents likely to be affected by any option, no-one from these streets attended.

#### **TIME FRAME**

There was discussion at the last public meeting concerning the most appropriate time for seeking the views of the wider community through the distribution of a leaflet. There was concern if this occurred too close to Christmas. However, should the Board support the recommendation below, the leaflet could be distributed prior to the end of November with submissions closing around 12 December. Alternatively distribution could be held over until near the end of January with submissions closing in time for reporting to the first Board meeting in February 2004. Either situation is acceptable to the City Streets Unit (for discussion).

#### **CONCLUSION**

The project is progressing well and the collaboration process has proven to be well received by the public, producing some complimentary responses. The group attending the workshops continues to be enthusiastic and there is strong support for the preferred option. Comments on the option now need to be sought again from the wider community.

#### **Staff**

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board support the preferred Saltaire Street Living Street option for distribution and comment to the community, bounded by Bower Avenue, Beach Road, Pacific Road, Tedder Avenue, Marriotts Road and Rookwood Avenue.
  2. That the results be reported back to the Board for consideration.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.