

5. CATHEDRAL SQUARE - STAGES

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Chris Collins, Project Manager, DDI 941-8667
--	---

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to consult on the proposed road location for the north west corner of Cathedral Square (Stage 5).

BACKGROUND

The north west corner of the Square is the last section of the Square to be redeveloped. At its meeting in December 2002 the Council considered a report on Cathedral Square progress and resolved:

"That design work for the north-west quadrant be implemented, with a completion date of no later than the 30 June 2003".

In March of this year, Council officers meet with; the property owners in the North West corner of the Square, the Cathedral Square Stakeholders group, Taxi Federation, and shuttle bus and tour bus operators. The purpose of these meetings was to talk about how they would like to see the Square developed and what particular features/layout would assist them.

Following these initial meetings four possible options for stage 5 were developed. All of the options included:

- A one way road from west to east and provided (overall) a similar amount of parking space for all users to the existing situation.
- The opportunities for the use of the non road space (ie landscaping, trees, activity areas) were included as part of the option development.

The section of Worcester Street between the Square and Oxford Terrace was also considered. While there is no budget for the work in Worcester Street it was felt that the opportunities created by a one-way road were important and should be included in the discussions.

Three options were developed for this section and included in the initial consultation.

In May 2003 the different options for the Square and for Worcester Street were presented to the initial consultation groups to get their feedback. They were not asked to select any one option. As a result of these meetings one option for the north west corner was discarded. Options one-three will be presented to the meeting.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON THE OPTIONS

Cathedral Square Stakeholders group:

- The majority of the Stakeholders Group supports Option 2 as the most suitable for improvements to the traffic and pedestrian flows for the Square but would like to have the opinion of a qualified urban designer before confirming this view.
- The group does not support the wholesale loss of car parks from in front of the Visitors Centre and believes that the retention of these parks in this area is warranted.
- The reduction in short term parking by all proposals was not considered favourably by the group. By narrowing the carriageway through this area, this should enable more car parks, not less to be achieved.
- Any P5 parking in this area should not be able to be used by Taxi's as an extended feeder area. They believe that angle parking could be unattractive to taxis.
- The Group has concerns over whether the proposed Shuttle parking areas will work satisfactorily and encourage the possibility of a trial for this area.
- Strongly supports a mixture of vehicle and pedestrian use of the Square and is strongly opposed to the view that the Square should be maximised for pedestrians if this is at the expense of convenient short term parking and service accessibility to the perimeter buildings.

Shuttle and Tour Bus Operators:

- This group were concerned by the lack of bus operators parking in all of the options and would like to see the area opened up for more parking.
- Saw benefits in locating the roadway around the outside of the Square as this created shelter for passengers (they are able to shelter under the verandas during wet weather) (Option 2).
- Were supportive of the one-way proposal.

Taxi Federation:

- This group were positive about all the options and stated a clear preference for the Option around the outside of the Square (Option 2).
- Liked the Option of extending the boulevard along Worcester Street.
- Supportive of the one-way proposal.

CENTRAL CITY STREETS SUBCOMMITTEE

On 13 May 2003 a seminar was held with the Central City Streets Subcommittee of the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee to explain the different options. The Subcommittee unanimously agreed that Option 2, (see plan attached) the road around the outside of the square, was the proposal that should go forward for further consultation. They also requested that the consultation include the boulevard option for Worcester Street.

Recommendation: That the proposal for a road around the outside of the square (Option 2) with the Boulevard along Worcester Street from Oxford Terrace to the Square be approved for public consultation.