

5. GOULDING AVENUE PEDESTRIAN FACILITY

The City Streets Manager sought the Board's approval to proceed with the Goulding Avenue pedestrian facility to final design, tender and construction.

There is a budget of \$20,000 in the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for the 2002/2003 financial year to provide a safer pedestrian crossing facility on Goulding Avenue. It has been recommended that a pedestrian refuge would cater for the higher number of pedestrian movements across Goulding Avenue from the retail business area to the Library and the Community Centre, while encouraging slower traffic speeds.

Four options were considered to provide a safer pedestrian crossing facility on Goulding Avenue:

- To provide a safer pedestrian crossing facility
- To reduce vehicle speeds
- To maintain and enhance Goulding Avenue as a cycle route
- To maintain on-road parking where possible.

A publicity pamphlet illustrating the layout and position of the proposed island and inviting comment and feedback was distributed to residents, schools and business owners/operators, including the Library/Community Centre along Goulding Avenue.

18 written submissions were received during the consultation process.

There is a range of comments, both for and against. From analysis of the written and phone consultation, the following conclusions are drawn:

- There appears to be a general feeling that speeding is an issue and that the work could proceed.
- There is a suggestion that the Council is not going far enough with traffic calming in this street.
- Those opposed to the project are generally concerned about loss of parking.

The project control group acknowledges the concerns raised. However, the plan for Goulding Avenue is technically sound and complies with the policies and practices of the City Council.

The majority of Board members considered that the issues of speed and safety would not be addressed by the installation of this pedestrian facility.

On a show of hands (five votes to four votes) the Board **decided** not to proceed with this pedestrian facility. The Board's Transport and Roading Committee will give further consideration to this issue.