

14. McCORMACKS BAY ROAD/MAIN ROAD - SAFETY REVIEW

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Transport and City Streets Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the outcome of a review of road safety surrounding the McCormacks Bay Road/Main Road intersection. The purpose is also to seek the support of the Board for the implementation of one of the review recommendations, which involves the installation of red surfacing over part of the existing cycleway.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Members will be aware of the concerns that have been expressed by local residents regarding the level of safety, particularly for cyclists, at the intersection of McCormacks Bay Road and Main Road. These concerns have been formally presented to the Mayor in a report prepared by a group of Sumner Bay residents who regularly cycle through the intersection. A recent crash resulting in serious injuries to a cyclist, and occurring at the intersection, was the catalyst for the group initiating an investigation project from which the report has emerged.
3. In response to the matters raised in the report from the residents, the Transport and City Streets Unit commissioned a review of road safety at the intersection and incorporating other intersections in the immediate vicinity. A copy of this report is available from the Transport and City Streets Unit prior to the Board meeting and a number of copies will be tabled at the meeting. (Appendix 1 of the safety review report contains a copy of the initial report prepared by the residents group.)
4. The road safety review concludes that *"although no multiple crash problem appears to exist, public fears for cyclists at the McCormacks Bay Road intersection are of real concern"*. Furthermore *"the main difficulty lies with ensuring that right turners from Main Road into McCormacks Bay Road do so at a sensible speed, observing all levels of road user particularly cyclists in the westbound direction during peak hours when they are likely to be obstructed by other motorists"*. The report suggests a number of short, medium and long term remedial measures to improve road safety in the immediate and wider area.
5. There are two significant road enhancement projects currently in the planning and development stages that will have impacts on traffic movement at and within the vicinity of the area encompassing the road safety study discussed above. The projects; *"Ferry Road/Humphreys Drive Traffic Signals"* will improve the traffic function of the arterial route incorporating improvements to both road safety and efficiency. These improvements include the three-laning of Main Road from the Ferry Road Bridge to McCormacks Bay Road. Many of the medium and long term improvement initiatives identified in the safety review are considered best addressed through the current process being used in the aforementioned major projects. This is particularly so given the likely changes in the traffic environment that will result as a consequence of any capacity related improvements. These projects are currently within the capital works process and members will be consulted as plans are developed.
6. The safety review study identifies a small number of measures that could be implemented in the short term, generally through existing budgets, and independent of any future changes to the traffic environment. The most practicable of these initiatives (which would specifically address the primary cycle safety concern at the intersection) is the installation of red coloured surfacing on the existing cycle lane across the intersections of Main Road with McCormacks Bay Road. This measure would improve the awareness of cyclists for motorists turning at both intersections as detailed in the report conclusion quoted above. The red surfacing has been used in the past where there is significant exposure of cyclists to crossing vehicles and in other areas where cyclists can be particularly vulnerable.
7. There is a strong demand from the community for remedial action to improve cycle safety in this area, particularly at the Main Road/McCormacks Bay intersection. Red surfacing would not generate any disbenefits to residents or other road users, as the cycle lane already exists.

CONCLUSION

8. Any potential alterations and improvements, of a significant nature, to this section of Main Road are best incorporated into the planning, development and consultation associated with the major roading projects for this area.
9. As the proposed red surfacing to the existing cycle way can be funded by existing budgets it can be implemented almost immediately.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. Cost

Coloured surfacing is provided for within existing budgets.

11. Legal Considerations

The Land Transport Rules provide for the installation of cycle lanes including surface treatment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.