

4. GREERS ROAD/MEMORIAL AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS RR 9118

Officer responsible City Streets Manager Mark Gordon	Author Bill Greenwood Transportation Safety Engineer
Corporate Plan Output: Greers Rd Memorial Ave Intersection Improvements \$ 121,200	

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to consider the Network Improvement works proposed at the intersection of Greers Rd and Memorial Avenue. Refer **attached** plan.

Traffic safety issues at the intersection have been a matter of local concern for a number of years. The number of crashes reported to the police is low, however, there is a strong community perception that the existing intersection layout is unsafe.

This report discusses a proposal for addressing safety for cyclists turning right from Memorial Avenue. Improvements for city bound vehicles merging from two lanes on Memorial Avenue are also suggested.

Some consultation regarding the proposal has already been undertaken. The report concludes that the proposed changes be circulated for public comment.

BACKGROUND

In 1994/95 the north-west corner of the intersection was widened to remove a “squeeze” to cyclists and improve access to a bus stop. Both Greers Rd approaches to the intersection have also been recently upgraded including the provision of cycle lanes from Tudor Ave to east of Jellie Park.

A scheme plan for the four laning of the balance of Memorial Ave (without road widening) has been developed but is not yet programmed.

Between 1992 and 1997 28 non-injury, 31 minor, 33 serious, and 1 Fatal crashes were reported to the Police. The most regular problem being rear end collisions involving vehicles queuing in Memorial Ave city bound.

A parent of a pupil at Burnside High School has written many letters and addressed the Community Board regarding perceived safety problems for cyclists turning right from Memorial Avenue into Greers Rd (east). No crashes associated with this movement have been reported to the Police. The Board requested this project be advanced in the budget as a result of safety concerns.

Memorial Avenue is the Major Arterial route from the City Centre to the Airport. Greers Road is a Collector route providing access to schools and Jellie Park. Memorial Ave speed limits changes from 50km/h to 60 km/h at the intersection. Greers Rd has a 50 km/h limit. Memorial Ave carries around 19,000 vehicles per day, Greers Rd (East) 7300 vehicles per day and Greers Rd (West) 7700 vehicles per day.

The intersection has high pedestrian and cycle activity associated with the adjacent schools and park. Memorial Ave is a bus route. (Airport and Burnside School service).

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements are intended to:

1. Provide a standard merge for City Centre bound traffic on Memorial Ave including relocation of the City bound bus stop from the merge area.
2. Provide a central median island to protect right turning cyclist from high speed through vehicles and protection for an additional traffic signal display.
3. Connect the solid median on Memorial Ave (north) to the intersection with a right turn bay to provide a logical finish for the existing median and protection for an additional traffic signal display. This extra signal display is expected to reduce the incidents of rear end crashes on this approach.
4. Provide coloured cycle lanes on Memorial Ave to assist cycle safety and 'publicise' the presence of cycles.

The provision of a right turn arrow from Memorial Ave into Greers Rd east was investigated and reported on previously to the Board. It is not included for the following reasons:

1. Low number making this turn (including cyclists).
2. The resulting increased delays to other phases (A phase 20% B phase 12%)
3. The effect it would have on co-ordination of the 'greenwave' on Memorial Ave.
4. The lack of crashes associated with this movement.
5. The perceived safety issue is addressed by the provision of a median island and marked cycle lanes to separate the cyclists from the through traffic.

The provision of wider median islands to allow for future right turn signal displays was not considered appropriate. This additional work would result in the project exceeding its budget due to the extra reconstruction required.

CONSULTATION

The intersection has a relatively low crash rate. It does however have a history of perceived safety concerns. In 1993 the ex City Engineer (John Ince) expressed concern regarding the 'squeeze' to cyclist caused by a double sump and projecting kerb in the south-west corner of the intersection. This issue was addressed in 1995. A plan was also developed at that time for reconstruction of the whole intersection and the project placed on the future programme.

Since 1995 various requests have been received for right turn traffic signal facilities. Investigations, including a report to the Community Board, recommended against the installation of a separate right turn phase.

An extensive letter writing campaign by a person concerned regarding safety for cyclist turning right into Greers Rd east was undertaken in 1997. A meeting with the person to discuss the current proposal was organised.

A fatal pedestrian accident involving a pedestrian being hit by a bus turning right from Greers Rd west, also in 1997, resulted in the Board convincing the Council to bring work at the intersection forward in the programme.

The scheme originally developed in 1995 has been modified following site visits by the Schools Advocate, Safe Routes to School's Co-ordinator and the Area Engineer.

CONCLUSION

The local community has expressed concern regarding perceived safety problems at the Greers Rd/Memorial Avenue for a number of years. This concern resulted in work being programmed at the intersection this financial year.

A proposal for the intersection has been developed which addresses safety for cyclists turning right from Memorial Avenue. Standard length merge lanes are also provided for city bound vehicles on Memorial Avenue. Coloured and marked cycle lanes are also proposed to highlight the presence of cyclists and to improve their safety.

To complete the community consultation on the improvement it is suggested that a publicity plan be circulated to obtain the wider communities views on the proposals. Subject to satisfactory feedback being received it is hoped to commence work on the project in June.

Recommendation: That the proposed improvements at the Greers Road Memorial Avenue intersection be circulated for public comment.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.