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<p>Corporate Plan Output: Pedestrian Initiatives Capital Works Programme</p>	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a proposal to install a pedestrian refuge island in Springfield Road, just south of Edgware Road.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the reconstruction of Springfield Road (Edgware Road to Eversleigh Street) in the 1997/98 financial year, the roadway was formed at 10 metres wide. A zebra crossing was removed from in front of the 'Beulah' church. This crossing was originally installed when a school operated on the land now occupied by the church. As part of the reconstruction, the roadway was widened to 12 metres. The zebra crossing was removed because the school no longer operated at this location and observations of the crossing indicated little use of the facility. 'No stopping' restrictions were imposed on Springfield Road just south of Edgware Road intersection to improve visibility and traffic flow.

Following the reconstruction of Springfield Road, the Council has received requests from sight impaired persons and elderly residents to provide a crossing facility at this location.

PROPOSAL

The plan attached details a proposal to install a refuge island in Springfield Road, just south of the Edgware Road intersection. Following meetings with sight impaired persons, it is proposed to incorporate tactile pavers in the footpath, to provide a distinctive texture at the kerb crossing point and tactile pavers in the island. This crossing facility is considered to be more appropriate than a zebra crossing. With this facility, the blind pedestrian does not have to hope that a motorists will give way when crossing as with a zebra crossing. A blind person has demonstrated to me on site that he can easily determine which direction a vehicle is approaching and that an island will provide a safe refuge when crossing.

The directly adjoining property owners/occupiers have been approached for comments on this proposal and the Council is awaiting their response. At the time of writing this report, a number of residents have indicated strong objection to the loss of kerbside parking. The island has been designed to avoid driveway and right turning manoeuvre conflicts. The bus stop will require moving to outside the power kiosk and church property.

Recommendation: That the Board support the proposal to install a refuge island facility in Springfield Road, south of Edgware Road, to assist sight impaired persons crossing the roadway.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officers recommendation be approved in principle and that an on-site meeting be held with affected residents prior to a final decision being made.