

## 7. HACKTHORNE ROAD PEDESTRIAN ISLANDS

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Corporate Plan Output: Pedestrian Initiatives	

The purpose of this report is to consider the final proposal for introducing pedestrian islands on Hackthorne Road at the intersection of Dyers Pass Road and adjacent to the entrance to the Cashmere Kindergarten. The City Services Committee will also consider this report and make appropriate recommendations to the Council.

### BACKGROUND

In May 2000 the Board considered a report on a proposal to construct a pedestrian island in Hackthorne Road adjacent to the Cashmere Kindergarten. This island is additional to an island that was proposed for the intersection of Dyers Pass Road the plans for which were circulated for comment in February of this year.

A leaflet outlining the proposal to install both traffic islands linked with a flush (painted) median in Hackthorne Road was circulated to the community following

consideration by the Board and City Services Committee in May. A copy of the plan describing this project is attached to this report.

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Over 100 replies have been received by the Council in response to the leaflets that were distributed to the community. Although there is a strong measure of support for the construction of the islands (particularly the one outside the Cashmere Kindergarten), a number of people took the opportunity to raise other concerns about traffic management in the area. Alternatives to the proposed island at Dyers Pass Road included the possibility of installing traffic signals or a roundabout. However two problems surfaced as being of major concern to residents – the speed of traffic down Dyers pass Road through the intersection and the lack of visibility from the existing “give way” signs in Hackthorne Road.

Many of the worthwhile suggestions that were made by residents have been incorporated into plans for improving traffic management in the area.

The plan that is before the Board focuses on the provision of the two pedestrian islands, the siting of which has been discussed with a large number of people who live in and drive through the area.

Mr Penman, the Principal of Cashmere School has been consulted about the provision of the traffic island in Hackthorne Road at the Dyers Pass Road intersection. Mr Penman's concern is that if children choose to use the new traffic island rather than the other crossing points that are presently used by children travelling to and from the school they would be placing themselves in a situation that brings them in direct conflict with traffic turning left from Dyers Pass Road into Hackthorne Road. The speed of traffic travelling down the hill is often high which can place children who are unsupervised in a hazardous position.

In the exchange of information between ourselves and the Principal some of these concerns have been allayed. Benefits to adult pedestrians and other road users suggest that the proposed traffic island, coupled with the additional island near Cashmere Kindergarten in Hackthorne Road, will provide for the safer management of road traffic in the area.

Visibility from the "give way" signs in Hackthorne Road is a problem for motorists. Survey work that will be carried out to enable construction plans to be prepared for this project will be extended to include future improvements to the northern Dyers Pass Road approach to the intersection. This will assist in overcoming the visibility problem for traffic entering the intersection from Hackthorne Road. From a crash investigation study at the intersection it has been established that improvements on this approach are required.

#### **THE PLAN**

The plan to improve traffic management in the vicinity of the Dyers Pass Road/Hackthorne Road intersection includes the following work:

- The construction of a traffic island at the Dyers Pass Road intersection.
- The construction of a pedestrian island adjacent to the Cashmere Kindergarten.
- The linking of the two traffic islands with a painted (flush) median.
- The removal of the existing "give way" signs.
- The installation of new "stop" signs on the Hackthorne Road approaches to the intersection.
- Improved road marking (including the painting of edgelines) in Dyers Pass Road on the downhill approach to the intersection to provide more guidance for motorists and moderate the speed of traffic.
- Extend the broken yellow "no stopping" lines on the northwest and southeast sides of Hackthorne Road on the approach to Dyers Pass Road, on the west side of Dyers Pass Road south of the intersection, on the inside of the bend adjacent to 111 Hackthorne Road and either side of Hackthorne Road adjacent to the proposed pedestrian island at the Cashmere Kindergarten.
- The painting of a flush "island" on the Hackthorne Road east approach to the intersection.

## CONCLUSION

The proposal to improve traffic management at the Dyers Pass Road intersection with Hackthorne Road has generated a considerable amount of interest within the community. The speed of traffic down Dyers Pass Road and lack of adequate visibility from Hackthorne Road were problems raised by most of the people who responded to Council communications. The ability for pedestrians to cross the road safely is also of concern to people especially parents of children living in the area and the elderly.

The proposal to construct the two traffic islands and associated roadmarkings is in response to the pedestrian problem. Traffic speeds along both Dyers Pass Road and Hackthorne Road will be moderated by this proposal. However, the visibility problem will not be fully addressed until further work is done on the intersection with the possibility that Dyers Pass Road (north) will be built up and the acute bend from Dyers Pass Road (north) into Hackthorne Road (east) eased.

Although changes to traffic management at intersections like Dyers Pass Road and Hackthorne Road will never gain the full support of all road users, the City Streets Unit is confident that the best interests of the majority will be served by these proposals.

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider the proposals and make appropriate recommendations to the City Services Committee.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the proposals set out in the report be supported.