

15. HACKTHORNE ROAD PEDESTRIAN ISLAND AT CASHMERE KINDERGARTEN

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Authors Michael Thomson and Brian Neill
Corporate Plan Output: Pedestrian Initiatives	

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on a proposal to construct a pedestrian island in Hackthorne Road adjacent to the entrance to Cashmere Kindergarten.

BACKGROUND

The Committee will be aware of a proposal to construct a traffic island on the Hackthorne Road west approach to the Dyers Pass Road intersection near Cashmere School. For some time residents and the school have been concerned about the safety of pedestrians crossing Hackthorne Road near the intersection.

At the present time there are patrolled zebra pedestrian crossings on both the Dyers Pass Road and Hackthorne Road frontages to the school. Pedestrians are discouraged from crossing at the intersection itself by pipe railings that extend around the north-east corner of the intersection and along the southern kerb of Hackthorne Road downhill from its intersection with Dyers Pass Road. Children and other people are, at the present time, encouraged to cross both Dyers Pass Road and Hackthorne Road away from this busy junction.

Discussions with the school and the Cashmere Residents Association has revealed that there is a lot of concern about the speed of traffic travelling downhill on Dyers Pass Road through the intersection. There are similar concerns relating to speed along Hackthorne Road west of the intersection.

During a “walk over” of the area by people from the Cashmere Residents Association, the Police and City Streets representatives two years ago it was identified that a safe crossing point for pedestrians in Hackthorne Road could be provided at both the Dyers Pass Road intersection and on the straight section of Hackthorne Road (between two bends) outside the Cashmere Kindergarten.

PROPOSALS

It has been proposed that traffic management be improved at the Dyers Pass Road/Hackthorne Road intersection near Cashmere School and that a pedestrian island be provided near Cashmere Kindergarten. Over the last two years improvements have been made to the zebra pedestrian crossing facilities for Cashmere School, intersection and pedestrian crossing warning signs and road markings along Hackthorne Road around the bends west of the Dyers Pass Road intersection.

The leaflet that was distributed to the Community in January 2000 attracted over 50 submissions. The traffic island proposed for the Hackthorne Road west approach to the Dyers Pass Road intersection near Cashmere School was well received by many. However, a number of people have concerns about the treatment proposed and have offered alternatives such as roundabouts, traffic signals and other measures that they felt should also be looked at.

The opportunity was taken to discuss this proposal in more detail with residents at a recent Cashmere Residents Association meeting and the City Streets Unit is presently evaluating possible changes to the shape of the island before reporting back to the Committee in June.

PEDESTRIAN ISLAND

When the road markings were upgraded along Hackthorne Road in the vicinity of the Cashmere Kindergarten, a section of flush (painted) median was installed along with side lines to define the parking area and to provide more guidance to motorists travelling up and down this important traffic route. The flush median provides some assistance to pedestrians crossing the road in this area and is to be extended to the Dyers Pass Road intersection if the proposed traffic island is constructed there.

It is appropriate that the Council now consider putting in the pedestrian island within the existing flush median by Cashmere Kindergarten as part of this project. The proposed pedestrian island would become a "Recommended Crossing Point" for school children and other pedestrians who wish to cross the road in this area. The position chosen has been decided upon with an objective to maximise approach visibility in regard to uphill and downhill traffic, direct pedestrian access to the kindergarten and minimise the effect on vehicle turning manoeuvres into adjacent properties and the kindergarten. A plan detailing the proposed position of the traffic island is attached.

CONCLUSION

There has been considerable discussion with the Community on pedestrian crossing points and traffic management in the vicinity of the Dyers Pass Road/Hackthorne Road intersection. Many worthwhile suggestions have been made by residents and incorporated into plans for improving traffic management in the area.

There remains a problem with many motorists driving too fast for the conditions. This can, to some extent, be countered by improved road marking delineation and the use of intersection channelisation in the form of the construction of a traffic island on the Hackthorne Road west approach to the intersection. This will be reported on at the June meeting of the Committee.

Further consultation is needed if a pedestrian island is to be provided in Hackthorne Road adjacent to the Cashmere Kindergarten. It is proposed to distribute a leaflet to the community for comment so that a pedestrian island can be included in the work proposed at the Dyers Pass Road/Hackthorne Road intersection.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That a leaflet be distributed for public comment that describes the construction of a pedestrian island to be located in Hackthorne Road located adjacent to the Cashmere Kindergarten.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.