

13. PEDESTRIAN ISLAND AT CONDELL AVENUE – BLIHGS ROAD

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Corporate Plan Output: Safe Routes to School	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Shirley/Papanui Community Board's recommendation for a pedestrian island to be constructed on Condell Avenue (a collector road) where it intersects with Blighs Road, to cater particularly for children attending Waimairi School. This report is also being considered by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, and will also be presented to the City Services Committee for their approval.

BACKGROUND

As part of this year's Council organised 'Walk a Child to School Day', parents at participating schools were invited to complete a 'Walkability' survey of their walking route to school. The survey asked parents questions on the suitability and safety of their walking route to school. Over ninety replies were received from parents of children at Waimairi School.

One of the main concerns Waimairi School parents had was the problems faced by children when attempting to cross Condell Avenue, particularly at Blighs Road. Parents were concerned with the high levels of vehicle turning movements through the intersection, sometimes at speed, coupled with high traffic volumes on Blighs Road, producing an environment where pedestrian safety is compromised. The school itself has also expressed concerns on the safety of its children crossing Condell Avenue. An assessment by City Streets staff confirms these safety concerns.

Information from the school shows that the roll at November 2000 stood at 360 pupils. Approximately 90 children live in the area south of Condell Avenue and west of Blighs Road. A recent weekday, after school pedestrian count showed 35 children and adults crossing Condell Avenue at Blighs Road in a twenty minute period. Children have also been observed crossing Condell Avenue away from the intersection, in a mid block location. Providing a safe pedestrian facility at the intersection would also address a recognised risk factor in child pedestrian crash injuries of crossing in mid block locations. With safety concerns addressed, the facility could also encourage more families to allow their children to walk to school, which is an outcome that the City Streets Unit is committed to encouraging.

Blighs Road is an arterial road carrying over 10,000 vehicles per day. No information on vehicle counts is available for the southern section of Condell Avenue. However, a recent weekday count during the after school period showed 64 vehicle turning movements through the Blighs Road-Condell Avenue intersection in a twenty minute period. Condell Avenue is designated as a collector road, which is why it has had no traffic calming features placed on it to date. There is a 'Give Way' traffic control against Condell Avenue. The Condell Avenue leg is 14 metres in width for pedestrians to cross, with the actual distance between the kerb cut downs on this leg of the intersection giving a minimum width of 16 metres.

OTHER ISSUES

Kerb and channel reconstruction is not due on Condell Avenue within the current five year capital works programme. With the safety concerns noted above, it would therefore be prudent to provide a safe crossing facility now rather than wait for any future reconstruction work. Funding is available for minor safety works at the intersection, with the Board not being requested for funds.

PROPOSED WORK

Installing a pedestrian island will require the banning of roadside parking to some extent, although adjoining properties will still have on street parking available to them on both Condell Avenue and Blighs Road. A small tree would need to be removed on one side of Condell Avenue to accommodate the pedestrian island.

Recommendation: That the Board supports the installation of a pedestrian island and the realignment of the footpaths on Condell Avenue at the Blighs Road intersection.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that consultation take place with the residents of the Condell Avenue/Blighs Road intersection.