

## 18. REDCLIFFS SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

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The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of work proposed in shifting the pedestrian crossing on Main Road at the Redcliffs School and to have the committee recommend the expenditure.

For some time now, Council officers have been working with representatives of the Redcliffs School to deal with a concern over the close proximity of the schools vehicle entrance to the pedestrian crossing. As the vehicle entrance is quite narrow, vehicles wanting to turn in sometimes have to wait in the traffic flow because of a vehicle waiting to exit the school grounds. This creates a concern as the average daily traffic volume in Main Road is around 15,000 vehicles per day. Vehicles waiting to turn right into the school grounds can wait on the painted median, however vehicles turning left into the school grounds have the back end of the vehicle on the pedestrian crossing. Because of the kerb builds outs for the pedestrian crossing, these vehicles cannot always get fully out of the traffic flow. This can reduce the safety for the children using the pedestrian crossing.

Representatives of the school made a submission to the annual plan working party expressing their concern for reduction in the safety caused by the vehicle movements at the school entrance. As a result of this, the “Road Safety for School Steering Group” visited the site and considered the various options.

Several proposals have been investigated. At one stage the school was considering purchasing the adjacent empty section and relocating the vehicle entrance. Another proposal was to widen the vehicle entrance in the direction away from the pedestrian crossing to make enough width to allow a vehicle to enter at the same time as a vehicle is waiting to leave. This would require the removal of a small tree. Installing a gate that is closed when the children are arriving and leaving was another option as some teachers already park on the street.

There are two options, which involve shifting the pedestrian crossing. As the existing pedestrian crossing has kerb build outs on both sides with wiring to the beleasha beacons, the cost of relocation was a concern when some other schools are not as well catered for with such facilities. Having to remove the existing facilities increases the cost quite considerably.

The first proposal was to shift the pedestrian crossing approx 10 metres to allow the vehicles to clear the crossing when turning left into the school grounds. The estimate for this is \$37,000. This proposal puts the pedestrian crossing adjacent to a drive on the other side of the road, which accesses five properties. Also, the final position of the schools vehicle entrance is not known, and if it were to be widened towards Sumner, the advantage of this scheme would be minimal.

The second proposal is to shift the pedestrian crossing approx 27 metres. This has the advantage of being clear of the drives on the other side of the main road. The distance from the school entrance may encourage children living on the other side of the road towards the City to cross the road other than on the pedestrian crossing. This would be a situation like what happens at the Councillors' car park in Tuam Street with the distance in this case being greater. This possibility is thought to occur infrequently but can not be checked as there are school holidays at the moment.

For this proposal to proceed, it would be necessary for the school to fund a pedestrian path within their grounds so that children could access the facility. Widening the vehicle entrance would also be necessary to resolve the conflict between vehicles entering and leaving at the same time. The estimate for this proposal is \$60,000.

There are steps in the process for roading work, which have still to be carried out.

- A safety audit of the proposal has yet to be received. It is understood that surveys will be carried out to make sure that the 'zebra' crossing is still the safest option at this location.
- Once the funding has been confirmed and a safety audit received, this project can be presented to the 'Scheme Plan Assessment Team' for approval so that design and contract documentation can be prepared.
- Public consultation has yet to take place and a publicity pamphlet showing the repositioning of the crossing and other pedestrian improvements at Tauapata Street will be issued shortly.

A plan showing the second option for the relocation of the pedestrian crossing will be tabled.

The "Road Safety for Schools Steering Group" has been informed that the school will not accept any other option other than shifting the pedestrian crossing approx 27 metres. The Steering Group has recommended that this option proceed. Funding is available through the Road Safety at Schools in the Councils Financial Plan and Programme. If the City Services confirms the expenditure of \$60,000, then it is anticipated that this work could be carried out before the start of the 2001 new school year.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the \$60,000 from the Road Safety at Schools budget be spent on relocating the crossing facility in Main Road outside Redcliffs School, a distance of approx 27m towards Sumner.
  3. That a formal agreement be received from the Redcliffs School which undertakes to fund a pedestrian footpath within the school grounds, and the widening of the entranceway, so that all work is completed at the same time.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** Not seen by Chairman.