

4. WADES AVENUE/PROSSERS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

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Corporate Plan Output: Capital Works Implementation 9.5.67 and 9.5.77	

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board on the Wades Avenue/Prossers Road reconstruction project.

A petition submitted by 85% of the residents of Wades Avenue/Prossers Road was received by the Board in January 2001 and the Council in February 2001, and has now been referred to the City Services Committee which next meets on 10 April (copy of petition attached). There are four issues raised in the petition. This report outlines the recommendations that will be put to the City Services Committee with regard to the undergrounding and tree removal issues. The outcome of the other issues are also discussed below.

UNDERGROUND WIRING- LANTERN LIGHTING

The residents would like the power and telecommunications wiring to be undergrounded and lantern style lighting to be installed. The estimated cost of this work (based on costs of similar projects) is \$190,000 excluding GST.

The Urban Renewal and City Streets 2000/2001 undergrounding budgets are fully committed. The capital works budget for this reconstruction project has already been exceeded and funding has been sourced from any surpluses. No funding is therefore available to carry out the undergrounding work without compromising other projects.

Due to Council funding policy and budget commitments, it is recommended to the City Services Committee that undergrounding is not undertaken.

NEW TREES

The residents would also like to enhance their streets by the removal and replacement of existing street trees.

The trees in Prossers Road are mostly flowering crabapples that were planted in 1956. There are also two manna ash trees that were planted as replacements for diseased crabapples in 1986. Forty years is usually considered the maximum age for a crabapple to remain as a healthy, attractive tree. As with most crabapples of this age, the Prossers Road trees show typical signs of declining condition and sparse foliage. It would be better for the future landscape of the street to take the opportunity to replace the crabapples now as part of the road reconstruction work, rather than see them continue to decline. The two manna ash trees are also in a poor condition and should be replaced at the same time.

It is recommended that the street trees (*Malus x micromalus* - Midget Crabapple and *Malus prunifolia* "Rinki" – Chinese Crabapple) are removed in Prossers Road and are replaced with *Ginkgo biloba* (Maidenhair Tree) in both Prossers Road and Wades Avenue. The removal of the old trees will allow a new road profile which will enhance both the pedestrian access and the character of the street.

The area of land on the bend is to be landscaped and cobbled, and include seating (see attached landscape plan taken from the contract drawings).

CUL DE SAC PREFERABLY, OR NARROWING OF PROSSERS ROAD/WADES AVENUE JUNCTION

The original scheme plan was released as a publicity leaflet at the end of 2000 showing the Wades Avenue/Prossers Road intersection as a right angle bend of constant width. Comments were received in mid January 2001 and were generally in favour of the project. However, this petition was submitted shortly afterwards, proposing the creation of two cul de sacs. This proposal would hinder heavy vehicles from using the road which is a major concern to the residents. A 3.5 metre wide road would provide a link between the cul de sacs and allow access for driveways positioned on the bend.

The proposal has passed a safety audit and the plan amended to show the cul de sacs/link road. It is recommended that the publicity leaflet be reissued to residents in early April 2001 (see attached publicity plan).

SIGNAGE

The residents have requested a 'NO TRUCKS' sign to be placed at the Prossers Road end of Wades Avenue prior to construction starting. However, as the forthcoming reconstruction work will allow sufficient restrictions to truck movements in the streets, there will be no need for the sign.

SUMMARY

- This capital works project is committed due to the carrying forward of funding from 2001/2002. This was to allow for co-ordination with the opening of the new St Martins New World Supermarket in May 2001. Due to consideration of the residents petition design changes have been made which has delayed start of construction. The supermarket has made a financial contribution to the traffic restraint on Wades Avenue as part of their resource consent conditions. By commencing construction at the St Martins end of the project around the time of opening, a temporary constraint is effectively in place.
- The contract has been tendered and the outcome will be presented to this Board for acceptance (as a supplementary as the tender closes on the 28 March 2001). A contractor is likely to start in May 2001 to allow for completion in early August 2001. A delay to the construction contract to allow for undergrounding will be at least six months. This has been made clear in the contract documents. However, a delay to the start of construction will incur cost escalations.

Recommendation: That the Board support the following recommendations and refer same to the City Services Committee for consideration:

1. That undergrounding is not undertaken.
2. That the street trees (Malus x micromalus - Midget Crabapple and Malus prunifolia "Rinki" – Chinese Crabapple) are removed in Prossers Road and are replaced with Gingko biloba (Maidenhair Tree) in both Prossers Road and Wades Avenue.
3. That the publicity leaflet be reissued to residents early April 2001.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That in view of the advice that no Council funding is available for undergrounding, the foregoing recommendations be adopted.