

37. WOOLSTON/BURWOOD EXPRESSWAY

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Corporate Plan Output: Capital Works Implementation 9.5 text 10	

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the planning issues of the Woolston/Burwood Expressway. A copy of this report was also forwarded to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board for its information and the Board supported the recommendation.

Residents were invited to the Bexley Residents' Association meeting on Monday 6 November 2000, to discuss issues relating to Stage 2 of the Woolston/Burwood Expressway. There were a variety of comments, most relating to how the new road affected individual properties. There was a concern about the difficulty of accessing Pages Road at peak traffic periods if Brook, Birch and Bexley Roads are closed at the Expressway. However, it became obvious that there was a lot of support for the new road with several comments relating to the length of time to complete the work and whether the process could be sped up. The current schedule is for:

- The completion of Stage 1 (New Brighton Road to Wainoni Road including the bridge) in June 2001.
- The commencement of construction of Stage 2 in February 2002.
- The opening of Stage 2 some time in 2003.

Meanwhile the engineering design and property purchase continues as funds permit.

The publicity pamphlet was distributed in November 2000, with a total of ten responses.

- Two responses supported the closure of Carisbrooke Street.
- Three responses requested the empty section at the corner of Eureka Street to be turned into open space and raised other issues relating to this area.
- Two responses did not want Brook and Birch Streets fully closed to traffic at the Expressway.
- One response wanted the roundabout left on Pages Road at Bexley Road.
- One response dealt with issues relating to No 601 Pages Road.
- One response fully supported the whole scheme plan.

As well as these submissions, the Council has received two petitions. The first petition was against the stopping of Carisbrooke Street. This contained 66 signatures from 42 properties, the majority of these being in Warblington Street. With this petition, there was a list of names who did not see the public notices for "road stopping". The second petition was for no access to the Expressway from Carisbrooke Street. This petition was also against allowing left turns in or out of Carisbrooke Street. This contained 36 signatures from 20 properties, mainly in Carisbrooke Street. Public notices were put in the Star on 30 June 2000 and again on 12 July 2000 and notices were affixed to power poles notifying residents of the proposal to close Carisbrooke Street and Eureka Street. These notices resulted in one submission being received containing a number of signatures requesting that Carisbrooke Street be closed to all traffic at the Expressway and indicating that they did not want a pedestrian underpass under the Expressway. As there were no objections to the proposed "stopping" of Carisbrooke Street, the process was completed and the notification of the "street stopping" was placed in the Star and Press on 23 August 2000.

Originally the City Council had resolved to fund Stage 1 of the Woolston/Burwood Expressway (from Travis Road to Wainoni Road), but negotiations continued with Transit NZ and Transfund. In May 1999 Transfund approved the cost-sharing proposal for the roading work. The original scheme plan was for the Expressway to deviate back into Bexley Road at the intersection with Wainoni Road. There were no funds allocated for Stage 2. When Transfund funding was secured the decision was to use the Council funds to build Stage 2 (Wainoni Road to Birch Street). The scheme plan for Stage 2 was produced in February 1999, which showed Eureka, Carisbrooke, Bexley, Brook and Birch Streets all closed off at the Expressway. Since then several public meetings have been run by the Otakaro/Wainoni Residents' Association where plans were displayed showing Eureka Street and Carisbrooke Street stopped at the Expressway. In addition to this, a Local Area Traffic Management Plan was produced as far back as 1997 and adopted in June of 1997 for the Aranui area.

Issues relating to problems in Eureka Street and Carisbrooke Street resulted in the intersections at Bexley Road being shown as full closures.

As the legal process and approvals have been completed it would be unwise to suggest looking at ways of revisiting this process as this would set a precedent. It would be difficult in the future to know when to carry out physical works if there was a chance that this legal process could be overturned at some later date. As there are two distinct views in this particular case, then the residents who want it closed could then petition to have the process revisited a second time and so on.

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board at its 2 October 2000 meeting recommended *“That the (City Services) Committee defer recommending to Council that approval be given for the legal stopping of Bexley Road, Brook Street, and Birch Street, at their intersection, with the Woolston/Burwood Expressway, until after public consultation has taken place.”* The City Services Committee recommended *“that the Council approve the legal stopping”*. The Council adopted the City Services Committee recommendation subject to recommendation 2 being amended to provide: *“2. That the Council approve the legal stopping....., subject to the consultation process referred to in the report.”*

This consultation has now taken place with the Bexley Residents' Association's public meeting and the publicity pamphlet and random door knocking by staff. It is now proposed to notify the “road stopping” so that people can lodge formal submissions. Once the “road stopping” for Brook, Birch and Bexley Roads is complete, the City Services Committee will be asked to recommend the parking restrictions and the installation of the traffic signals on Pages Road as per the scheme plan.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That public notification of the “road stopping” at Brook Street, Birch Street and Bexley Road proceed.

Chairman's

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