

#### 4. WAIMAIRI ROAD PEDESTRIAN ISLAND AT WENTWORTH STREET

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Corporate Plan Output: Pedestrian Initiatives/Traffic Signs and Markings	

The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal to install a pedestrian island and associated roadmarkings in Waimairi Road south of Wentworth Street.

##### BACKGROUND

Hazards facing pedestrians crossing Waimairi Road in the vicinity of the shops on the corner of Wentworth Street and south along Waimairi Road to Maidstone Road were first given attention by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board in 1997. A scheme plan to construct three pedestrian islands between Greers Road and Maidstone Road was prepared. Unfortunately, due to problems associated with the relative narrowness of the roadway, parking demand, the repositioning of bus stops and compatibility with cycle movements it was not practicable to pursue this project at that time.

Since the original scheme plan was prepared, traffic signals at Maidstone Road and a pedestrian island south of St Clio Street have been installed. The City Streets Unit is proposing, that, as part of the five year capital works programme, overhead reticulation is likely to be undergrounded along Waimairi Road between Greers Road and Tudor Ave. This would provide the opportunity for parking bays to be constructed along the western side of Waimairi Road to provide more roadspace for the marking of cycle lanes and provision of a continuous flush (painted) median.

Now that the traffic signals have been installed at the Maidstone Road intersection our focus for improving traffic management in the area has centred on the Greers Road/Waimairi Road and Wentworth Street/Waimairi Road intersections.

##### PROPOSALS

There is a high demand for right turning traffic from Waimairi Road into Greers Road. This includes a number of cyclists travelling to Burnside High School. Crashes have occurred at this junction and traffic congestion in the area is often present during times of the day when pupils are being dropped off/collected from Westburn School. The proposed plan (**attached**) indicates changes that will address the traffic management problems associated with these intersections, provide for pedestrian movements (a pedestrian island in Waimairi Road and tighter corner roundings into Wentworth Street) which will assist pupils travelling to and from both Burnside High and Westburn Schools.

##### CONSULTATION

People immediately affected by the proposal have been canvassed for their views. This includes residents, businesses and Westburn School.

The general reaction is of agreement with the traffic management proposals, including more extensive bans on kerbside parking in the area. However, the shifting of the bus stops (which is an essential feature of the proposal) has met with some resistance from the owners or occupiers of the homes where the new bus stops would be best located. The initial plan which was discussed with residents provided for both the “in” and “out” bus stops to be located between Greers Road and the zebra pedestrian crossing for Westburn School. Sight visibility, cycle and traffic manoeuvres from the Greers Road intersection would have been compromised with the bus stops in these locations and were seen as compromising road safety by the residents who have frontage to this part of the roadway.

## **CONCLUSION**

Difficulties with the final siting of bus stops in Waimairi Road accepted, it is recommended that the proposal be circulated for comment from the wider community. Results of the public consultation will be reported back to the Board and City Services Committee in April with a view to undertaking the work in May 2001.

**Recommendation:** That the proposal be circulated for comment.

## **Chairman’s**

**Recommendation:** That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.