

4. WILSONS ROAD (ST MARTINS ROAD TO CENTAURUS ROAD) TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Michael Thomson, Pedestrian Advocate, DDI 371-1950
Corporate Plan Output: Pedestrian Safety Initiatives and Cycle Planning	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board about feedback following the public consultation to propose pedestrian and cycle facilities on Wilsons Road, between St Martins Road and Centaurus Road, and to seek the Board's support which will be reported to the City Services Committee for its consideration.

BACKGROUND

This project is in response to concerns regarding the safety of school children crossing Wilsons Road to and from the St Martins Christian School, located on both sides of Wilsons Road. The proposal to install a flush (painted) median and marked cycle lanes will continue the arterial road traffic management currently being installed toward the city on Wilsons and Waltham Roads, as well as assisting pedestrians crossing the roadway. Residents have previously raised concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling along Wilsons Road. Please refer to attached plans.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The leaflet was distributed prior to Christmas with a closing date for submissions being the end of January 2001. A summary of the responses received to date is:

1. Support the plans, great idea to put in cycle tracks.
2. Support. Cycle lanes are most welcome.
3. Looks a lot safer but would like pedestrian crossings reinstated at Centaurus/Wilsons.
4. This project is badly needed and the plans are excellent. Would like stop signs to replace the Give Way controls at the St Martins/Wilsons Roads and Centaurus/Wilsons Roads intersection.
5. Like the plan, but would like to extend the "no stopping" outside the supermarket.
6. Don't think the road is wide enough.
7. Concern about road width at the school crossing point for cyclists.
8. Would like to see a lower speed limit on Wilsons Road.
9. Flush medians are great and with an island they're even better.
10. Prefer not to lose carparking outside residence, opposite the shopping centre. Could a parking bay be put in?
11. Request for an additional island near the library. Would like road markings similar to those installed in Waltham Road.
12. Concern about the road width for right turning traffic into Gamblins Road.

Response

3. Pedestrian crossings at the Centaurus/Wilsons Roads intersection. These were removed and replaced with kea crossings (school patrols). The reason for this was due to the high casualty rate between pedestrians and motorists exiting the roundabout.
4. Stop signs at the two roundabouts. This would require a fundamental change in the management of roundabouts with the corresponding change to the traffic regulations etc.
5. Extended parking restrictions would require further consultation with adjoining property owners/businesses.
6. The lane widths including parking are sufficient and are in accord with similar treatments around town.
7. The road width at the kerb extensions is not compromised. This is due to marked cycle lanes continuing in a straight line from the edge of the parking lane past the extended kerbs. Note the extended kerbs do not protrude further out into the roadway than the parking lane edge.
8. Speed limits below 50 km/h would be subject to further consultation and Council resolution.
10. The construction cost of a bay would be approximately \$10,000. This would provide one carpark. The property is a corner property with parking on Gamblins Road. The City Streets Unit does not consider the expense of a recessed bay to be appropriate.

11. There is insufficient road space at this location for an island, cycle lanes and the required parking. The overall road marking will complement Waltham Road.
12. The design of the wider flush median, traffic lanes, and cycle lanes at this location specifically addresses this concern.

Recommendation: That the Board's views on this project be communicated to the City Services Committee's February 2001 meeting to assist the Committee in making a decision to proceed with this project.