

8. BUCKLEYS ROAD – BUS STOP

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The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to recommend to the Bus Stop and Shelters Subcommittee of the City Services Committee that the bus stop in Buckleys Road opposite Eastgate Mall be extended.

With the commencement of the Orbiter bus route and the changes made to the eastern bus routes at the end of last year it has been found that the present bus stops at Eastgate Mall are not long enough to accommodate all the buses. The stop outside the Mall was extended in March of this year but Council officers have been unable to reach any agreement with residents for the extension of the outbound bus stop.

Before making any final decision as to the appropriate place to extend the existing bus stop, it was felt that the new pedestrian facilities should be completed. This work is now complete and this enabled officers to see how this site was working.

At present, if the outbound Orbiter is stopped at Eastgate Mall and the other services arrive at the bus stop, the red buses park along the pedestrian build out and block the inside traffic lane. This creates a safety issue for those exiting Norwich Street and forces the east bound traffic in Buckleys Road to merge into one lane. At peak times this is a very dangerous situation.

Several options have been investigated:

Option One

Option one was to place the bus stop outside the Service Station. Agreement could not be reached with the Service Station owner. It was found that this site was not long enough, in that, the space required for three buses needs to be in the vicinity of 45 metres. Also bus patrons would have to negotiate a second road crossing ie Norwich Street, and when crossing Buckleys Road, using the facility provided, would be crossing in front of the bus. Bus stop infrastructure (Orbiter bus stop sign, two shelters and a rubbish bin) would also have to be relocated from the present site at some considerable cost.

Option Two

Option two was to place a bus stop either side of the Norwich Street intersection. In addition to the above reasons against locating a bus stop outside the service station, this would cause confusion for bus patrons as to which stop they should be waiting at. It would also cause problems when patrons want to transfer from one service to another because there would be a need to cross Norwich Street.

Option Three

Option three is to increase the existing bus stop north across the frontage of Nos 35 and 37. This option removes all possible confusion for bus patrons, does not create safety issues for pedestrians who will cross Buckleys Road behind the buses, and will allow 47 metres of bus stop with a vehicle cut down for the bus to exit the bus stop.

The officers involved in this investigation recommend Option **three**.

No agreement has been reached with the property owners of Nos 35 or 37. One of the problems that has been brought to our attention is access to the properties at No 35, where the bus stop is already over the vehicle entrance and has been for the last 12 years. This has been taken into account. The length of the broken yellow line at the kerb build out will be increased to allow a vehicle to pull out of the traffic lane and wait behind a bus until it moves off the bus stop so that the vehicle can access the property.

The bus access to option three allows plenty of room for the bus to pull out of the traffic lane and park parallel to the kerb. The exit is over a vehicle crossing which will allow for ease of getting back into the traffic flow.

Currently there is all day parking across the frontage of properties Nos 35 and 37 and there is some turn over of vehicles. These vehicles can however be accommodated in the car park provided at Eastgate, off Cranley or Russell Streets.

The removal of the all day parking will allow the bus stop to be lengthened to a distance that will accommodate the buses at this interchange, provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians and by

having all buses using the same stop will remove any confusion that could arise for bus patrons. (See Appendix A).

Buckleys Road is a major arterial road which carries the majority of traffic from the city to the eastern suburbs. It serves as access to a large mall complex and is the interchange point for the eastern bus routes. The present situation is a major safety issue for traffic, pedestrians and bus patrons. Option three will solve the safety issues that are being experienced at present.

Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the Bus Stops and Shelters Subcommittee of City Services Committee:

1. That the bus stop on the north west side of Buckleys Road commencing at a point 12 metres from its intersection with Norwich Street and extending in a north easterly direction for a distance of 30 metres be revoked.
2. That a bus stop be installed on the north west side of Buckleys Road commencing at a point 17 metres from its intersection with Norwich Street and extending in a north easterly direction for a distance of 47 metres.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the recommendations be adopted.