

16. PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC SIGNALS – BUCKLEYS ROAD AT EASTGATE MALL

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Bill Greenwood, Transportation Safety Engineer, DDI 371-1946
Corporate Plan Output: Safety Capital Works Eastgate Mall Pedestrian Signals \$50,000	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the installation of pedestrian traffic signals across Buckleys Road adjacent to the Eastgate Mall. This report is also to be considered by the City Services Committee.

Pedestrians (especially elderly and sight impaired users) experience difficulty in crossing Buckleys Road a four lane median divided arterial adjacent to the Eastgate Mall. To address this concern changes were made to the crossing point last year by installing kerb buildouts at the side of the road and a path with hand rails within the central median.

Funding for installing traffic signals for the pedestrians has been included in this year's budget. The signals are proposed to be split at the median with pedestrian call buttons crossing point. The traffic signals will be coordinated with the adjacent intersection to minimise the delay to through traffic. A plan detailing the proposal is attached.

A major source of the pedestrian demand is associated with the adjacent Bus Stops. The alternative of locating a Bus Interchange adjacent to the Linwood Library is being discussed with ECAN. The relocation of the Bus Stops to within the Mall car park would also present a potential conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. The vehicles would however be travelling at a much slower speed. To retain the Bus Stops on Buckleys Road will always cause safety concerns for pedestrians who need to cross this busy four lane median divided road carrying more than 25,000 vehicles per day. A demand for some pedestrians to cross in this area will however remain even if the Bus Stops are relocated.

Pedestrians are continuing to cross the road adjacent to rather than at the new crossing facility. This is a significant safety concern. Surveys suggest that crossing within 50m of traffic signals is 40 times as likely to result in injury than using the signals. Steps are currently being taken to install pedestrian barriers to restrict pedestrians to the formed crossing point.

The issue is finely balanced. In the interest of pedestrian safety relocation of the Bus Stops to the Library frontage will continue to be pursued. Installation of traffic signals to assist pedestrians cross Buckleys Road will also have a benefit for pedestrians in this area. To ensure that the pedestrians cross Buckleys Road in the safest location, pedestrian barriers are currently being installed.

Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the City Services Committee that pedestrian traffic signals be installed on Buckleys Road adjacent to the Eastgate Mall in accordance with the attached plan.

Chairman's Recommendation: For discussion.