

15. ST JAMES AVENUE/PROPOSED KERB AND CHANNEL RENEWAL

Officer responsible Asset Management Team Leader	Author Brian Boddy, DDI 941-8013
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The purpose of this report is to request that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board approve the attached plan for the renewal of the kerb and channel in St James Avenue between Windermere Road and Dalriada Street, for construction.

BACKGROUND

This project is budgeted in the Capital Works kerb and channel renewal budget in the 03/04 year. The Community Board approved the work for consultation at its November meeting. Two hundred and twenty publicity pamphlets were distributed to residents and property owners in St James Avenue and the adjoining streets. The Council has received ten responses. A summary of those responses relevant to the project is as follows:

General

- The proposed changes are great. - Congratulations a job well done. - Overall we are happy with this proposal from a safety perspective. - I think these changes are excellent.

Landscaping

- Overall I think your concept plan will enhance the aesthetics of the street.
- The removal of the old and misshapen prunus trees and replacements is welcome. My concern is the choice of scarlet oaks as a suitable replacement. These are large trees better suited to city parks rather than residential streets. - When the cherry blossom and plum trees need replacing, can they be replaced with a non-fruiting variety? Oak trees because of their significant shading effect should be removed; trees that could be used to replace them are claret ash, kowhai, dogwood, ginkgo, mountain ash, rowans and elms. - I definitely do not want any more huge trees at my end of the street. The plums from the prunus trees create nuisance. I would suggest smaller trees such as flowering weeping cherry trees. - The planting of scarlet oak trees stops at about 42 St James Ave, why not extend to the bend to the north?
- The plan supplied shows on the St James Ave/Windermere Road corner three existing plane trees on this corner and one additional one. In fact there are already 4 plane trees there and a site visit would convince you another is unnecessary. What is the chance of having Magnolia Kobus trees planted as per the original plan for the corner when Windermere Street was done?
- The planting of plants to attract monarch butterflies' (lavender, etc) would be appreciated.

Parking

- Placing the kerb alignment along the edge of the existing seal in St James Ave will cause people to start using Bellvue Ave for parking, not only on Sat and Sun when St James Park hosts various sporting activities. I do not think that any of the Bellvue Ave residents would like this sudden influx of traffic and I also cannot envisage that you would like to encourage this.

Traffic Control

- This plan will make the road safer, by slowing down vehicles using St James Ave. Especially the planned raised platform at the Bellvue Ave intersection will act as a deterrent to any speeding cars and by paving it, it will enhance the street appeal.
- The only way to curb speeding especially at the entrance from Windermere Rd, where all road rules are ignored, is to divide St James at the entry point with a splitter island or secondly to install a hump. I think the other proposals are first class. - Please would you consider a speed hump close to the entrance to St James Park? Long straight = speed. - Some type of traffic calming device should also be placed between Dalriada St and the proposed Holland pavers at Bellvue Ave. - I am concerned about the increasing number of cars using St James Ave as a short cut, the majority of them tend to speed. Can we have speed humps to slow them down?

- Is the proposed carriageway wide enough for parked cars as happens regularly near St James Park and through traffic? My understanding is that the planned width of Windermere Road was increased for this reason when work on kerbs & channels was completed there. - There should be no kerb on the road side of the grass as parking would be on the seal narrowing the road for traffic.
- Could we please have kerb build outs, also with landscape planting outside number #49. If that is not approved, can we have yellow 'no parking' lines painted outside No. 49?
- Recommend painting of centre line on St James Avenue through to Windermere Rd. Cars turning from Windermere Rd are very inclined to cut this corner.

Undergrounding of the Overhead Wires

- What is the cost to each ratepayer of underground wiring should this go ahead?

In answer to these concerns/questions:

- When the plum and cherry trees need replacing, it is proposed to replace them with scarlet oaks.
- The planting of scarlet oaks will be continued northwards when the kerb and channel north of Dalriada Street is renewed as part of the memorial this street represents to the fallen soldiers of the World Wars.
- The proposed nine metre wide carriageway will be widened to ten metres between Bellvue Avenue and Dalriada Street to allow two way traffic movement with vehicles parked on both sides of the road.
- It is proposed to treat the intersection with Dalriada Street (at No. 49) in a similar manner to Bellvue Ave intersection when the kerb and channel renewal is continued to the north in 2006/07.
- It is not proposed to install any speed humps as the nine metre wide carriageway, proposed platform and narrowing should be sufficient to slow down through traffic.
- Undergrounding the overhead wiring is not considered part of this project.

In response to feedback:

- Magnolia kobus trees will be planted instead of plane trees on the intersection of Windermere and St James Avenues. This will restore the original landscaping installed when Windermere Street was reconstructed.
- Centre lines will be painted on both bends outside numbers 5 and 27/29.
- Lavender will be included in the landscape plantings.

The objective for this proposal is to replace the existing kerb and channel in an efficient and effective manner while improving the street aesthetics. These objectives have been met. The estimated cost of this work as shown on the attached plan is \$301,700. It is hoped that work will start in September 2004. Having met all significant issues raised by the feedback the project is ready for the preparation of the construction plans.

Staff

Recommendation: That the proposed works in St James Avenue be approved for construction.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.