

1. NEW BRIGHTON MALL SLOW ROAD

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| General Manager responsible: | General Manager City Environment |
| Officer responsible: | Transport and City Streets Manager |
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the New Brighton Mall slow road for final design, tender and construction.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The New Brighton Mall Slow Road Project involves the introduction of a one-way slow road, and consequent de-pedestrianisation of Seaview Road between Union Street and Oram Avenue (New Brighton Mall). The aim of the project is to provide a high-street environment with convenience shopping. Background information to the slow road project is detailed in Attachment 1.
3. Consultation on the project has been undertaken during the preparation of the New Brighton Master Plan and the development of a concept plan for the slow road by Retail Consulting Group. Further consultation on the 'detail' of the slow road is proposed on an 'inform' basis. This consultation will involve a letter to the businesses in the mall and an opportunity to meet with the project team, a City Scene article, and information boards in place in the mall. The Consultation Leader's contact details will be provided as a point of contact for questions and to collect any feedback.
4. A concept plan for the slow road, prepared by Retail Consulting Group, has been developed into a scheme plan by City Solutions. This scheme plan (Attachment 2) has the following features:
 - a 4-metre wide one-way road positioned closer to the north side of the mall to maximise the sun on the south side for pedestrians and café seating.
 - 23 2-metre wide, car park spaces with a mixture of P30 and P5 restrictions depending on the adjacent features i.e. P5 outside the ATM, plus a loading zone.
 - five pedestrian crossing points consisting of raised platforms with tactile pavers at the road/footpath interface.
5. Landscaping, seating, planter boxes, lighting, and relocation of the children's playground will also be provided as part of the project. A number of other features detailed in the Retail Consulting Group concept plan will be the subject of other projects.
6. There was an expectation by the businesses in the mall that the project would be constructed during the winter months. Unfortunately this has not occurred, and there is now an effort to progress the project so that it is completed by the end of November, thereby avoiding the Christmas period.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The estimated total cost for this project is \$1,350,000, inclusive of all consultation, design and project management.
8. The New Brighton Mall slow road is part of the Major Amenity Budget for the New Brighton Commercial Area, which is to fund the slow road, and any other projects identified for the improvement of the commercial area. Funding of \$1,339,143 (in total) has been allocated in the 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 years.
9. A targeted rate (on the businesses adjacent to the slow road) was suggested some years ago to help fund the slow road, in the order of \$610,000. To date this has not been included in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process. To do so now will be a lengthy process. The Council has three options; construct the slow road now with no targeted rate; delay the slow road construction until a targeted rate has been pursued; or construct the slow road now from budgeted funds and pursue the targeted rate to fund additional projects once they are identified.

10. The 1978 Special Order declaring a pedestrian mall in New Brighton has been revoked. There are no other legal implications from the project.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the New Brighton Mall Slow Road for final design, tender and construction as shown in Attachment 2.
2. Approve the option of implementing the slow road now using the total budget available for the New Brighton Commercial Area, and acknowledge that it will not be possible to fund any of the slow road from a targeted rate.
3. Request that a targeted rate be pursued to assist with funding additional projects as they are identified.