

ITEM 46. TRAFFIC TREATMENT – ARGYLE STREET MILLERS POINT

TRIM RECORD NO: 2015/263987

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the following;

- (A) The installation of a Shared Zone on Watson Road between the points 0 metres and 27 metres east of Argyle Street;
- (B) The installation of a speed hump on Watson Road 47 metres east of the intersection with Argyle Street; and
- (C) The installation of footway widening on Lower Fort Street between Argyle Street and Argyle Place in Millers Point.

DECISION

BACKGROUND

The Harbour Village North Study (HVNS) undertaken by the City in May 2012 recorded requests from local residents and businesses to improve the public domain and pedestrian facilities in Argyle Street, Lower Fort Street and Watson Road.

The HVNS recommended the following pedestrian improvements on the Argyle Street:

- Widening the footpath at the intersection of Lower Fort Street and Argyle Street;
- Introduction of a Shared Zone at the intersection of Watson Road and Argyle Street. The Shared Zone is to extend into Watson Road for 27 metres;
- Introduction of a speed hump on Watson Road on the approach to the Shared Zone.
- A pedestrian crossing across Lower Fort Street – this proposal was discontinued as the crossing did not meet the required warrants.

The infrastructure changes are part of a wider scheme to:

- Improve pedestrian amenity, accessibility and facilities along Argyle Street;
- Remove the bus layover in Argyle Street and provide improved pedestrian facilities and an increase open space. Changes to the bus infrastructure have been carried out with close consultation from STA and TfNSW; and
- Improve access and facilities for the community playground equipment for the Abraham Mott and Harry Jensen Centre.

COMMENTS

Footway Widening

As part of the HVNS, residents of Millers Point requested that the crossing distance be reduced to increase safety across Lower Fort Street at Argyle Street. The crossing distance will be narrowed from 20 metres to 14 metres. The proposed footway widening will reduce vehicle speeds at the intersection. .

Shared Zone

On 27 April 2014 the Traffic Management Plan for the Shared Zone on Watson Road was approved by RMS. The Shared Zone will improve accessibility and pedestrian amenity while calming traffic and reducing vehicle speeds.

A speed hump is to be provided on Watson Road, 20 metres from the start of the Shared Zone. The speed hump will reduce traffic speeds on the approach to the Shared Zone.

Bus Layover

The bus layover outside Abraham Mott Community Centre is proposed to be relocated from Argyle Street. This relocation of the buses is aligned with the City Access Strategy. City of Sydney with assistance from Transport for NSW will manage this relocation and are currently investigating alternate locations.

Two bus stops within the area are to be retained, with a relocated zone for the Argyle Street bus stop reflecting the proposed kerb realignment.

Road Safety Audit

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) on the concept design has been undertaken. The final design reflects recommendations made within the RSA.

A post construction RSA will be undertaken on the Shared Zone and this will include seven day mid-block traffic counts as requested by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) in the Shared Zone approval.

CONSULTATION

The City consulted local residents and businesses in the area on the overall design. There were 3,200 letters sent out with 27 responses supporting the proposal and 3 responses opposing the proposal.

Support for the proposal was based on the removal of the bus layover, the park and facility improvements and the footpath widening and the new plantings.

Residents opposing the proposal had concerns that the works would change the heritage feel of the area.

Further consultation was undertaken for the Shared Zone proposal. 3,200 letters were sent out with 2 letters of support received and no letter objecting to the proposal.

One of the submissions supported the proposal but requested a pedestrian crossing across Lower Fort Street be provided as it is used by residents, tourist groups and

visitors. The submission proposed a further narrowing of the crossing above the proposed narrowing. This will be investigated separately.

FINANCIAL

Funds are available in the current budget as part of the Argyle Street Improvement project.

ATTACHMENTS

Traffic Treatment – Argyle Street Millers Point

Fiona Solomonides, Project Manager, Streetscapes



