

**ITEM 53. TRAFFIC TREATMENT – SHARED ZONE – BENNETT STREET
SURRY HILLS**

TRIM RECORD NO: 2016/518139

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (A) support the installation of a Shared Zone in Bennett Street, Surry Hills, between Marshall and South Dowling Streets; and
- (B) endorse the installation of a contra-flow bicycle arrangement in Bennett Street, Surry Hills, between Marshall and South Dowling Streets.

VOTING MEMBERS FOR THIS ITEM

<i>Voting Members</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Object</i>
City of Sydney		
Roads and Maritime Services		
NSW Police – Surry Hills LAC		
Representative for the Member for Newtown		

DECISION

BACKGROUND

The Surry Hills Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming (PCTC) Plan adopted by Council in 2008 includes a proposal to install a Shared Zone in Bennett Street, Surry Hills, between Marshall and South Dowling Streets to prioritise access for pedestrians, control vehicle speeds and preserve residential amenity.

COMMENTS

Shared Zone

Under existing conditions, the footpath width in Bennett Street is restricted, which forces most pedestrians to walk on the road. Therefore it is recommended that a Shared Zone be considered in Bennett Street, between Marshall and South Dowling Streets, to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility and lower vehicle speeds.

A Shared Zone is a road, network of roads or a road-related area with a posted speed limit of 10km/h and where pedestrian access and safety takes precedence over the ease of vehicle movement.

Approval to install a Shared Zone however is not delegated to Councils. Shared Zones are speed limits and approval to install them must be obtained from Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) directly.

On 2 September 2016, in compliance with RMS Technical Direction for the Design and Implementation of Shared Zones (TTD 2014/003), the City sought RMS approval to install

a Shared Zone in Bennett Street, Surry Hills, between Marshall and South Dowling Streets. On 18 October 2016, RMS granted the approval.

The proposed Shared Zone will create a pedestrian-friendly environment that allows pedestrians to walk safely and legally within the road carriageway. The appearance of the Shared Zone will be considerably different to nearby local streets to clearly communicate to road users that there is a change in the street environment and that pedestrians have priority.

The proposed Shared Zone **will not** impact on-street parking or traffic flows in the local area.

Contra-flow Bicycle Facility

Traffic counts commissioned for seven days from 1 May 2015 to 7 May 2015 in Bennett Street recorded an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volume of 299 vehicles per day and an 85th percentile speed of 22 km/h.

The RMS Technical Direction for Contra-Flow Bicycle Facilities (TTD 2014/002) allows for the delineation of contra-flow bicycle lanes in one-way streets by signage only if the following conditions apply:

- sight distance is free of obstructions;
- traffic volumes and vehicles speeds are low; and
- road geometry does not present an unacceptable risk.

Given that:

- a site visit undertaken by the City still confirmed that the sight distance in Bennett Street is clear and free of obstruction in both directions;
- traffic counts confirmed that the AADT volume for Bennett Street is below the limit for local streets (2,000 vpd) stipulated in the RMS Road Design Guide;
- speed counts confirmed the 85th percentile speed in Bennett Street, is below the posted speed limit of 50 km/h; and
- the proposal has been reviewed as part of a Road Safety Audit (RSA) to manage any associated safety risks, the proposal is compliant with the RMS Technical Direction.

The proposal is compliant with the RMS Technical Direction.

CONSULTATION

The City consulted local residents and businesses in the area. There were 217 letters sent out with four responses supporting the proposal and no responses opposing the proposal.

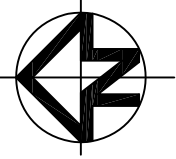
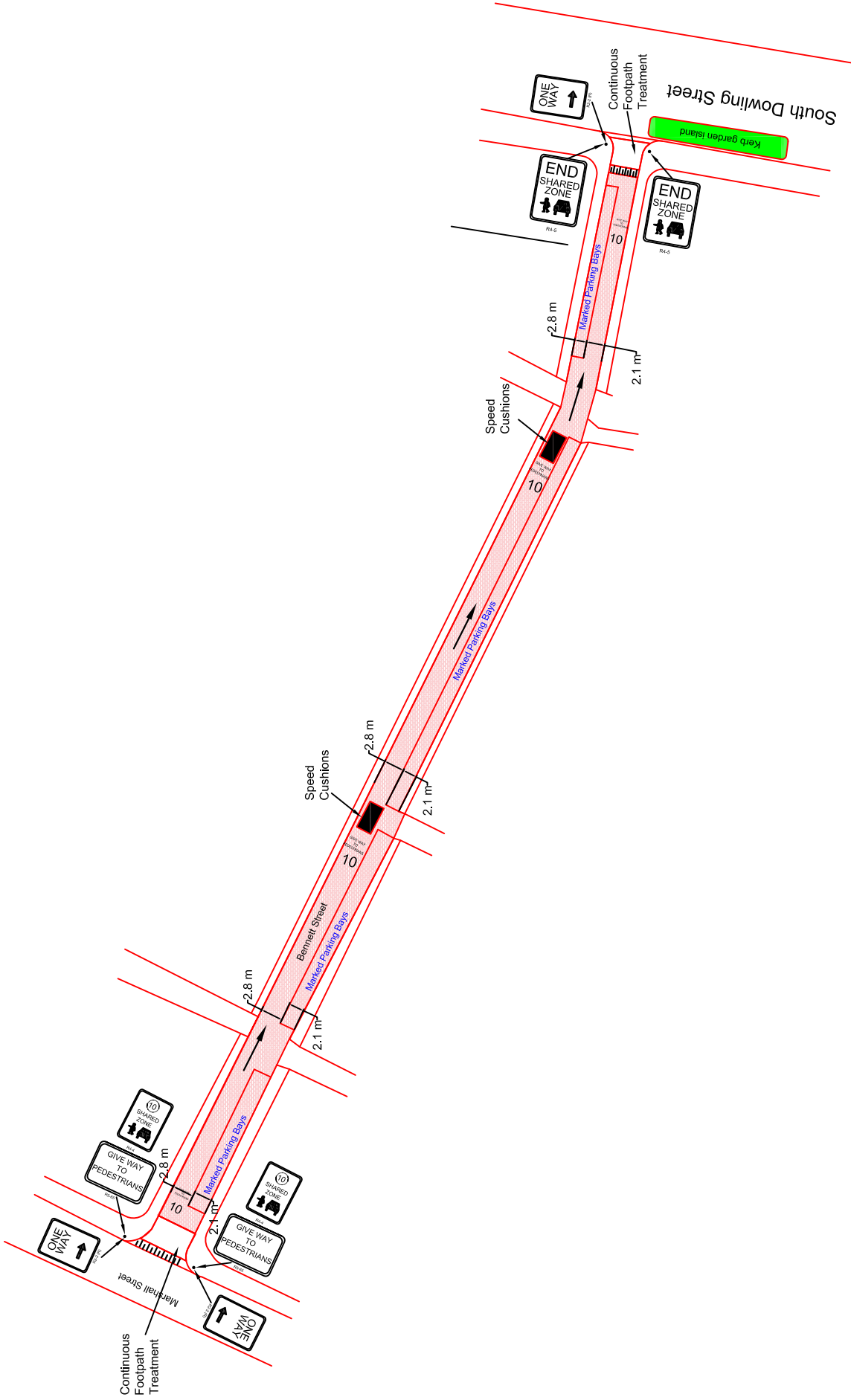
FINANCIAL

Appropriate funding for the proposal will be secured once greater certainty on the construction timeline is reached.

ATTACHMENTS

Traffic Treatment – Shared Zone – Bennett Street Surry Hills

Michael Rimac – Engineering Traffic Officer



PROPOSED SHARED ZONE BENNETT STREET, SURRY HILLS

Scale: NTS

Drawn by: GV

