

Item 21.**Traffic Treatment - Permanent Road Closure - Loveridge Street at McEvoy Street Alexandria****TRIM Container No.:** 2020/185995**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the permanent road closure of Loveridge Street, Alexandria at McEvoy Street.

Voting Members for this Item

Voting Members	Support	Object
City of Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]
Transport for NSW	[Insert]	[Insert]
NSW Police – South Sydney PAC	[Insert]	[Insert]
Representative for the Member for Heffron	[Insert]	[Insert]

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

The City in April 2018, consulted the community on the Alexandria Local Area Traffic Management Plan, which recommended a number of traffic calming treatments to mitigate the impacts of WestConnex on local roads

The permanent road closure of Loveridge Street, Alexandria at McEvoy Street was a recommended treatment to reduce short-cut traffic using the street, make it safer for people walking in the area and increase open space in Alexandria.

Comments

In April 2018 we developed a local area traffic management (LATM) plan for Alexandria, Erskineville and St Peters. The LATM Plan proposed a suite of treatments, including road closures and streetscape improvements to:

- Protect local amenity and maintain property access;
- Apply a precinct-wide approach to ensure the problem is tackled collectively rather than street by street;
- Consider the impact on pedestrians and cyclists as well as vehicles.

The City consulted with the local community to gather their feedback on the proposed suite of treatments from April 2018 to June 2018. At the end of the consultation period the City received 731 submissions with 75% of the submissions received supporting the City's LATM plan.

The City is now progressing on the approval of several of these treatments, including the closure of Loveridge Street, Alexandria at McEvoy Street. The closure of Loveridge Street will help to improve general safety in the area by eliminating by-pass traffic.

Consultation

The City has advertised the proposed road closure in Loveridge Street at McEvoy Street, Alexandria, in accordance with Section 116 of the Roads Act, 1993 for a minimum 28 days' notice (Wednesday 11 March 2020 to Wednesday 8 April 2020).

A Public Notice was placed in the Sydney Morning Herald, letterbox drop undertake in and around Loveridge Street and information placed on the City's Website.

The City received a total of 24 submissions with 11 in support, 12 against and 1 no opinion on the proposed road closure Loveridge Street.

All comments raised in submissions during consultation are reviewed to determine how a proposal progresses or is modified to address community comments.

In this case, given the need to protect these local streets prior to the opening of the St Peter Interchange, the City intends to proceed with the proposed road closure.

There were a number of comments raised during the community consultation (which covered both the closures in Brennan Street and Loveridge Street) and the City's responses are shown as follows:

Comment:

The closure of both Loveridge and Brennan Streets at McEvoy Street will significantly increase traffic on Power Avenue next to a school - Power Avenue and Wyndham Street are already congested during peak times, especially school days.

Answer:

- The closures will prevent traffic using these streets as a short-cut from McEvoy Street to Wyndham Street instead of waiting at the nearby traffic signals. This should reduce the traffic volume using these streets.

- Traffic entering Power Avenue would be only local traffic access to properties in Loveridge Street, Brennan Streets and Power Avenue (including the school).
- No traffic increase is expected near the school since Park Road (adjacent to the school) has been closed. School traffic only occurs during morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up times. The school drop-off is proposed to be split with Buckland Street which should reduce the school traffic in Power Avenue.
- The City has redesigned the Power Avenue and Wyndham Street intersection with a footpath continuation and footpath widening on Wyndham Street to assist pedestrians. Both the footpath continuation and widening designs has been reviewed to ensure larger vehicle access is maintained for businesses. This should slow traffic and improve residential amenity.
- Power Avenue will be monitored by the City to determine any further action.

Comment:

Bus access to Power Avenue will be difficult with high traffic volumes around Wyndham Street.

Answer:

- Arrangements for buses and student drop-off/pick-up areas will be reviewed in Power Avenue, Park Road and Buckland Street.

Comment:

Large vehicle turning in and out of Power Avenue will be difficult with the narrowing of Power Avenue at Wyndham Street and footpath continuation.

- The City's footpath continuation and widening designs for Power Avenue and Wyndham Street intersection has been reviewed to ensure larger vehicles access is maintained. The continuous footpath treatment will slow down large vehicles to provide priority to pedestrian safety.

Comment:

Currently, the McEvoy Street parking restriction is 'No Parking 6am-10am, 3pm-7pm Mon-Fri' which allows visitors to businesses and residents to park between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday. There are no restrictions on weekends but as part of WestConnex, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) will change parking to Clearway 6am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm weekends and therefore impacting on businesses and residents parking.

Answer:

- The TfNSW has not confirmed whether any Clearway restrictions will be installed on McEvoy Street as yet. This would be subject to a separate consultation.
- The City will review parking in the nearby local streets to see what can be done to assist businesses and residents with parking.

Comment:

Emergency Services (Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Police etc.) access to Loveridge and Brennan Streets will be impacted with closures at McEvoy Street and increase response times.

Answer:

- City has advised Emergency Services of Loveridge and Brennan Streets closures to ensure vehicles approach an incident in these streets are directed to Power Avenue for access.

Comment:

Suggest changing Power Avenue to one-way west from Wyndham Street to Brennan Street and keep Loveridge and Brennan Streets open at McEvoy Street.

Answer:

- Conversion of Power Avenue to one-way west from Wyndham Street to Brennan Street with no change to Loveridge and Brennan Streets has no safety or community benefits. However it would be difficult to physically prevent illegal travel behaviour with vehicles going the wrong way in such a short section of one-way and could increase traffic speeds in these streets.

Financial

Funds are available in the budget as part of the City's Capital Works Program.

COL WARNE, TRAFFIC PROJECT MANAGER