

Item 23.**Traffic Treatment - Permanent Road Closure - Lawrence Street mid-block between Maddox Street and Harley Street Alexandria****TRIM Container No.:** 2020/186006**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the permanent road closure of Lawrence Street, Alexandria, midblock between Maddox and Harley Streets.

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 Lawrence Street mid-block between Maddox and Harley Streets 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 Lawrence Street mid-block between Maddox and Harley Streets. The closure of Lawrence Street will help to improve general safety in the area by eliminating by-pass traffic and will match the midblock closure already existing in the adjacent Belmont Street.

Consultation

The City has advertised the proposed road closure in Lawrence Street mid-block between Maddox and Harley Streets, 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 Lawrence Street and information placed on the City's Website.

The City received a total of 49 submissions with 39 in support and 10 against the proposed road closure of Lawrence 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 and the City's responses are shown as follows:

Comment:

Lawrence Street closure will increase traffic and noise on Lawrence, Belmont and Euston Lanes.

Answer:

- Lawrence, Belmont and Euston Lanes will be monitored by the City to determine further traffic measures such as additional speed cushions, threshold treatments and improved pedestrian access.

Comment:

There will be a parking loss due to Lawrence Street closure.

Answer:

- It is recognised that parking is at a premium in Alexandria and the design for the road closure will try to minimise parking loss.

Comment:

Lawrence Street closure will increase congestion at the Maddox/Lawrence Streets and Maddox Street/Mitchell Road intersections.

Answer:

- Maddox/Lawrence Streets and Maddox Street/Mitchell Road intersections have roundabouts which assist traffic access by reduced speed at the intersection and has Give-way controls which assist vehicle turning movements. The City will monitor these 2 intersections.

Comment:

Lawrence Street closure will impact on business deliveries on Euston Lane.

Answer:

- Euston Lane has No Stopping restrictions on the eastern side and No Parking restrictions on the western side. No vehicle is legally allowed to park on Euston Lane for more than 2 minutes on the western side in the No Parking restriction.
- City will work with business that back onto Euston Lane to consider options for loading if a problem does eventuate.

Comment:

Vehicles turning into Maddox and Harley Streets from Lawrence Lane have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic.

Answer:

- City has undertaken inspections at Lawrence Lane/Maddox Street and Lawrence Lane/Harley Street intersections and the existing arrangements are satisfactory. However, City will monitor these intersections.

Comment:

There is insufficient U-turn area for vehicles at the proposed Lawrence Street closure.

Answer:

- As part of the Lawrence Street closure design, vehicle turning area will be provided to allow a standard car turning. Larger vehicles may need to do a 3 point turn similar to what occurs on Belmont Street.

Financial

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

COL WARNE, TRAFFIC PROJECT MANAGER