

Item 2.

Traffic Treatment - Alexandria Local Area Traffic Management - Proposed Permanent Road Closures

File No: X010878

Summary

This report recommends that Council approve four permanent road closures to vehicular traffic in Alexandria to improve pedestrian access, safety and increase open space in Alexandria.

In April 2018, the City developed a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) plan for Alexandria, which included proposed road closures to mitigate increased traffic flow from the WestConnex St Peters interchange. The Local Area Traffic Management plan was developed to protect local amenity, maintain property access, apply a precinct-wide approach to ensure the problem is managed collectively rather than street by street and consider the impact on pedestrians and cyclists as well as vehicles (refer to Attachment A).

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 per cent of the submissions supporting the City's Local Area Traffic Management plan.

The City has progressed the permanent local road closures at the following locations:

- (a) Anderson Street closure at Mitchell Road;
- (b) Loveridge Street closure at McEvoy Street;
- (c) Brennan Street closure at McEvoy Street; and
- (d) Lawrence Street closure mid-block between Maddox and Harley Streets.

These permanent road closures are recommended treatments in the Alexandria Local Area Traffic Management plan. The closure of the roads to vehicular traffic will create a pedestrian only space that will activate the street and provide safe pedestrian links through the precinct to make it safer for people walking in the area, reduce short-cut traffic movements and increase open space in Alexandria (refer to Attachment B).

The City again consulted the local residents and businesses near Anderson, Loveridge, Brennan and Lawrence Streets and the proposals were referred to the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee on 21 May 2020 where the closures were endorsed (refer to Attachment C).

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council approve the permanent road closures at the following locations:

- (a) Anderson Street closure at Mitchell Road;
- (b) Loveridge Street closure at McEvoy Street;
- (c) Brennan Street closure at McEvoy Street; and
- (d) Lawrence Street closure mid-block between Maddox and Harley Streets.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Alexandria Local Area Traffic Management Plan
- Attachment B.** Map of Permanent Closures - Anderson, Loveridge, Brennan and Lawrence Streets
- Attachment C.** Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) Agenda Item and Minutes of 21 May 2020 - Items 19, 21, 22 and 23.

Background

1. In April 2018, the City developed a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) plan for Alexandria which included proposed road closures to mitigate increased traffic flow from the WestConnex St Peters interchange. The plan was developed to protect local amenity, maintain property access, apply a precinct-wide approach to ensure the problem is managed collectively rather than street by street and consider the impact on pedestrians and cyclists as well as vehicles (refer to Attachment A).
2. 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 per cent of the submissions supporting the City's Local Area Traffic Management plan. The City has progressed the permanent local road closures at the following locations:
 - (a) Anderson Street closure at Mitchell Road;
 - (b) Loveridge Street closure at McEvoy Street;
 - (c) Brennan Street closure at McEvoy Street; and
 - (d) Lawrence Street closure mid-block between Maddox and Harley Streets.
3. These treatments were considered the most effective to protect these local streets and ensure the local amenity for residents prior to the opening of the St Peters Interchange.
4. Anderson Street is a local residential street which links Mitchell Road to Phillips Street.
5. Loveridge Street is a local residential street which links McEvoy Street to Power Avenue.
6. Brennan Street is a local residential street which links McEvoy Street to Power Avenue.
7. Lawrence Street is a local residential street which links Maddox Street to Harley Street.
8. The closure of these roads to vehicular traffic will create a pedestrian only space that will activate the street and provide safe pedestrian links through the precinct to make it safer for people walking in the area, reduce short-cut traffic movements and increase open space in Alexandria (refer to Attachment B).
9. On 26 February 2020, Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) approved a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to permanently close Anderson Street at Mitchell Road, Loveridge and Brennan Streets at McEvoy Street and Lawrence Street mid-block between Maddox Street and Harley Street to vehicular traffic.

10. In accordance to Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, a public notice for the permanent road closures of Anderson, Loveridge, Brennan and Lawrence Streets were published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 11 March 2020 giving a period of 28 days for comments to be received.
11. All comments raised in submissions during consultation are reviewed to determine how a proposal progresses or is modified to address community feedback.
12. Given the need to protect these local streets prior to the opening of the St Peter Interchange, reports on the Anderson, Loveridge, Brennan and Lawrence Streets permanent road closures were referred to the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) meeting on 21 May 2020 for consideration. (refer to Attachment C).
13. City staff prepared responses to address community feedback. The responses were tabled within the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee reports. The City also provided these responses to the community prior to the meeting, via email.
14. Additionally, the proposed road closures for Loveridge and Brennan Streets at McEvoy Street are intended to be installed with temporary barriers as a trial to better understand traffic movements in the area, in particular along Power Avenue.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

15. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This plan is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer for Greening Sydney with more landscaping and open space.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - The proposals help develop a network of safe, linked pedestrian paths which gives greater priority to pedestrians.

Financial Implications

16. There are sufficient funds available in the 2020/21 Capital Works budget and future year forward estimates to proceed to construction.
17. Ongoing maintenance costs for the permanent road closure are not expected to exceed existing costs to maintain the current trafficable road.

Relevant Legislation

18. Transport for NSW is responsible for the control of traffic on all NSW roads and has delegated to Council certain functions to regulate traffic on local roads.
19. The Transport for NSW delegation gives Council authority to approve road closures under Part 8, Division 2 of the Roads Act 1993.
20. This delegation can only be exercised by the elected Council and is subject to a number of conditions and limitations, including the advice of Council's Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

21. Construction works are expected to commence in the 2020/21 financial year to coordinate with other treatments recommended in the Alexandria Local Area Traffic Management plan.

Public Consultation

22. In compliance with Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, a public notice for the permanent road closure was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 11 March 2020 giving a period of 28 days for comments to be received.
23. 304 letters were sent out to local residents and businesses in the area around Anderson Street. At the end of the consultation period, 33 responses were received with 15 in support and 18 against.
24. 300 letters were sent out to local residents and businesses in the area around Loveridge Street. At the end of the consultation period, 24 responses were received with 11 in support, 12 against and 1 no opinion.
25. 300 letters were sent out to local residents and businesses in the area around Brennan Street. At the end of the consultation period, 22 responses were received with 10 in support, 11 against and 1 no opinion.
26. 374 letters were sent out to local residents and businesses in the area around Lawrence Street. At the end of the consultation period, 49 responses were received with 39 in support and 10 against.

27. City Staff have presented at five public meetings since 2018. There were between 60 and 120 community members in attendance at each meeting. At these meetings information was provided about changes that had been incorporated into the plans as a result of community feedback.
28. Comments received during the public meetings were also reviewed to determine how the plans could be further modified.
29. The Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee meeting on 21 May 2020 considered and endorsed the proposed permanent closure of Anderson, Loveridge, Brennan and Lawrence Streets to traffic (refer to Attachment C).

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