

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X089792 **DATE:** 9 December 2022

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operations Officer

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 8.6 - Project Scope - George Street North Pedestrianisation

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the scope of works for the George Street North Pedestrianisation between Hunter Street and Essex Street as described in the subject report and as generally indicated in Attachment A to the subject report for progression to detailed design, documentation and construction of works;
- (B) note the financial implications as outlined in Confidential Attachment F to the subject report; and
- (C) approve the traffic changes as recommended by the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee at the meeting held on 8 December 2022 as contained in Attachment B to the subject Information Relevant To Memorandum, subject to approval processes in accordance with the requirements of the Roads Act 1993.

Purpose

At the meeting of the Transport, Heritage, Environment and Planning Committee on 5 December 2022, further information was sought on the proposed traffic changes and it was requested that the outcomes of the 8 December 2022 Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee be reported to Councillors.

Background

At the meeting of the Transport, Heritage, Environment and Planning Committee on 5 December 2022, further information was sought on the following:

Proposed road and seat painting

An overlay of temporary road painting and temporary seating (concrete blocks) is seen as necessary to encourage the use of this new public space during the temporary road closure period and up until the permeant pedestrianisation works are completed. This was successfully undertaken on the George Street South (coloured circles of varying sizes) during the temporary closure period, and saw the community immediately start to use, hang-out and activate the new pedestrian space.

The area of painting is significant (1660sqm of road surface) and has to be done under stringent Light Rail safety requirements. The paint will be reapplied mid-way through the temporary closure to maintain its appearance.

The proposed design of the road and seat painting is based on the Pride (Progress) Flag. This theme was chosen as the timing of the works coincides with Sydney WorldPride in February and March 2023, and there will be large crowds across all inner Sydney and the city centre during this time. The design was presented to the Sydney World Pride Creative Directors on 4 November 2022. The Creative Directors endorsed the design. The design was subsequently presented to Council's Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Place Strategy Coordination Group on 24 November 2022 and the design was also supported.

The design is not considered to be public art, however, the design was presented to Chair of the Public Art Advisory Panel on 6 December 2022. The Panel Chair supports the proposed road painting. It should be noted that if the design is not adopted, another design will need to be procured and approved to activate the area during many months that George Street has temporary arrangements in place.

The temporary road painting in George Street North is also the recipient of a NSW Government grant for temporary activation of public spaces and the proposed design forms part of a Funding Agreement.

Proposed timeframes for the temporary and permanent traffic changes

The temporary traffic changes between Hunter Street and Bridge Street are proposed to be implemented on 9 January 2023. Temporary road closures will include water-filled barriers, signage and tactile ground surface indicators.

The temporary traffic changes between Bridge Street and Essex are proposed to be implemented in mid-2023. All temporary closures will mirror the future permanent closure arrangements as indicated in the report, subject to final approvals from Transport for NSW.

The permanent works will remove the temporary measures and replace them with permanent traffic treatments similar to the rest of George Street.

Permanent construction works on George Street between Hunter and Essex Streets are scheduled to commence in November 2023. Works will generally progress from Hunter Street to the north and undertaken in sections to minimise disruption to businesses and pedestrians, similar to the George Street South construction staging.

Consultation on the options for the proposed future pedestrianisation from Essex Street to Alfred Street will be undertaken in the second half of 2023.

Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee recommendations

The proposal was presented to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee on 8 December 2022. The proposal was endorsed with some alternative recommendations to clarify, remove duplications and make more explicit some aspects of the proposed traffic and parking arrangements.

The Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee on 8 December 2022 agenda item (Item 40 - Traffic Treatment - Pedestrian Boulevard Extension - George Street, Sydney) and the endorsed recommendations (draft minutes) are contained in Attachments A and B respectively. The draft minutes are confirmed following voting member review.

The Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee minutes will be available on the City's webpage on Wednesday 14 December 2022.

Memo from Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

Prepared by: Michael Harvey, Program Manager, Urban Design

Attachments

- Attachment A.** 8 December 2022 - Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee - Item 40 - Traffic Treatment - Pedestrian Boulevard Extension - George Street, Sydney
- Attachment B.** 8 December 2022 Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee - Item 40 - Draft Minutes

Approved



MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer