

Item 44.**Traffic Treatment - Pedestrian Refuge Island - Park Street, Erskineville**

TRIM Container No.: X083814.007

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the installation of a pedestrian refuge island in Park Street, Erskineville, at Railway Parade.

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 Newtown	[Insert]	[Insert]

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

The Erskineville and Alexandria Traffic and Transport Study commissioned by the City considered options to close Park Street at Railway Parade or ban the right turn into Railway Parade to reduce through traffic using Park Street.

In October 2023, Council resolved to undertake traffic counts in Park Street over three months after completion of the streetscape works to monitor traffic conditions and determine if any further review is needed.

The City carried out streetscape improvement works in Railway Parade and Park Street throughout 2023, including converting Railway Parade back to two-way traffic. These works have improved Park Street favourably and traffic conditions are generally acceptable when benchmarked against other local streets. As such, treatments to close Park Street or banning the right turn at Railway Parade are not considered necessary at this time.

The City proposes to replace the existing the traffic island and temporary devices in Park Street near Railway Parade with a new pedestrian refuge island.

Comments

Tube counts were installed in Park Street from 3 December 2023 to 25 February 2024. The traffic counts were repeated for one week during school term in October 2024, after completion of stormwater works. A comparison of current traffic counts to similar counts from 2021 and 2019 yielded the following results:

- Current traffic volumes in Park Street (1,260 vehicles per day) reduced by 41% compared to 2021 and are consistent with 2019 volumes.
- The proportion of vehicles currently using Park Street that are heavy vehicles is consistent with 2021, and the number of heavy vehicles reduced by approximately 31% since 2021.
- The proportion of heavy vehicles using Park Street has reduced by approximately 53% compared to 2019.
- The proportion of heavy vehicles in Park Street is within the typical range (approximately 5%) for most local streets.
- Vehicle speeds in Park Street are consistent with 2021, and current 85th percentile speed of 41km/h is consistent with the 40km/h speed limit.
- Vehicle speeds recorded in Park Street were significantly lower in 2019, however this is likely due to the position of the traffic counter which was closer to the Railway Parade intersection than the 2021 and 2024 counts.

The proposal will provide a wider and safer refuge for people crossing Park Street and encourage slower speeds for vehicles turning in and out of Park Street.

Consultation

Community engagement for the Erskineville & Alexandria Traffic and Transport Study was carried out in February 2023 and between 1 May 2023 to 30 June 2023. Letters were posted to 7,000 properties and businesses in the study area inviting feedback. Feedback was received through a community forum on 22 February 2023, online survey, interactive map, email and written submissions. The outcomes of the community engagement were presented at a community forum on 21 September and reported to Council at its meeting on 23 October 2023.

The City notified local residents and businesses in the area about the results of the traffic counts and the proposed pedestrian refuge. There were 76 letters sent out on 25 November 2024. A summary of the feedback received on the proposal will be updated at the meeting.

Financial

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

TERRY XU, SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER