

**Item 43.****Traffic Treatment - Shared Zone - Rainford and Davies Streets, Surry Hills**

TRIM Container No: 2023/429477

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee support the installation of a Shared Zone in Rainford and Davies Streets, Surry Hills, between Crown and Bourke Street.

**Voting Members for this Item**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Object</b>
City of Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]
Transport for NSW	[Insert]	[Insert]
NSW Police – Surry Hills PAC	[Insert]	[Insert]
Representative for the Member for Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]

**Advice**

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

**Background**

The Surry Hills Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming (PCTC) Plan adopted by Council in 2008 includes a proposal to install a Shared Zone in Rainford and Davies Streets, Surry Hills, between Crown and Bourke Streets to prioritise access for pedestrian, control vehicle speeds and preserve residential amenity.

## Comments

A Shared Zone is a road, network of roads or a road-related area with a posted speed limit of 10km/h and where pedestrian access and safety takes precedence over the ease of vehicle movement. The current footpaths along Rainford and Davies Streets, are very narrow and the existing street trees make it difficult for pedestrians to walk safely along the existing footpaths. Therefore, a Shared Zone would improve safety and access for pedestrians using these two streets.

Approval to install a Shared Zone however is not delegated to Councils. Shared Zones are speed limits and approval to install them must be obtained from Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) directly.

The proposed Shared Zone will create a pedestrian-friendly environment that allows people to walk safely and legally within the road carriageway. The appearance of the Shared Zone will be considerably different to nearby local streets to clearly communicate to road users that there is a change in the street environment and that pedestrians have priority.

Continuous footpath treatments are already approved at the intersection of Rainford and Davies Streets with Crown Street and will be implemented as part of the Crown Street Upgrade Project to further highlight pedestrian priority and help alleviate congestion on the footpaths. The proposed continuous footpath treatments will comply with the TfNSW Technical Direction for Continuous Footpath Treatments (TDT 2013/05).

The proposal also includes the provision of two speed cushions and kerb side islands along each street to physically reduce vehicle speeds to 10km/h. The proposed Shared Zone will not affect on-street parking provision in Rainford and Davies Streets. Parking bays will be line marked to comply with Shared Zone requirements.

## Consultation

The City consulted local residents and businesses in the area. There were 542 letters sent out with eleven (11) responses supporting the proposal and four responses opposing.

A further four neutral responses were received with concerns on pedestrian safety when walking in the Shared Zones and the potential dangers of a bi-directional bicycle path becoming a shortcut for e-bike delivery drivers.

One response opposing the proposal were concerned that the Shared Zone would negatively impact residential amenity from potentially increased number of people lingering in the Shared Zone. One response was concerned about increased noise and vibrations caused by vehicles going over the speed cushions.

Another two responses were concerned with Rainford and Davies Street becoming a thoroughfare for bicycles and did not support the idea of allowing bicycles two-way access in the streets. However, the contra-flow bicycle arrangement is standard treatment in one-way streets especially in Shared Zones where the speed limit is being reduced.

## Financial

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

**TERRY XU, SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER**