

BRIEFING: EAST-WEST WALKING AND CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS: WATERLOO TO CBD CONNECTION

25 JANUARY 2023 – 6.15PM

ATTENDEES

Elected Members: Mayor Barry, Cr Barratt, Cr Brown (via audio-visual link), Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, M Fisher, K Yung, S Freeman (via online link).

Staff: J Miller, Chief Executive (until 6.21pm); A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; K Puketapu-Dentice, Director Economy and Development;

PRESENTER

J Kingsbury, Head of Transport

KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE BRIEFING

To provide an overview of the project and an update on progress.

APOLOGIES

Cr Briggs, Cr Parkin and Cr Tupou

INTRODUCTION

Officers are encouraging a mode shift and want to provide viable safe transport options - road space needs to be re-allocated to make that possible. This project runs along a busy transport route with key transport connections.

PRESENTATION BY J KINGSBURY, HEAD OF TRANSPORT, A ROWE, TRANSPORT ENGINEER AND B HU, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MANAGER

Slide 1 (Header)

Slide 2 – Agenda

Slide 3 – Preferred route option: Waterloo Road is preferred because it passes schools, has less intersections, has the best connectivity options and less slope (road camber). Underground utilities on Knights Road are older and may need to be replaced soon.

Slide 4 – Preferred route option: Responses from the consultation indicate many concerns are the cost, danger for cyclists and a belief the cycleway would not be well used.

Slide 5 – Preferred option: Cyclists will not need to cross a road or wait at intersections for connectivity. Intersections on Birch Street, Knights Road and Waterloo Road will need upgrading, and signalised/raised crossings outside schools will need to be installed. A two-way cycleway on one side of street is cheaper and minimises loss of parking.

Slide 6 – Preferred option: Detail showing the parking spaces retained.

Slide 7 – Reallocation of road space: Pressure on parking is only expected to occur at school pick up times from 2-4pm. There will be no loss of parking on the north side of Waterloo Road. Reduced parking supply on Birch Street is still expected to meet user demand.

Slide 8 – Timeline and next steps: Construction is expected to begin in the second half of 2023. The existing cycleway in Knights Road will be removed and that will become the arterial route. Officers will be undertaking network modelling to understand the impact of new traffic behaviour and will be working closely with schools on road safety. Speed reduction is key.

Questions and discussion points

- Motorists from Waterloo Bridge are expected to find it easier to use Knights Road because of traffic calming measures and the reduced speed limit in Waterloo Road. Knights Road will need a higher level of service due to traffic volumes.
- Parking restrictions on Waterloo Road will be changed and officers will work with schools on safe travel plans.
- Good visibility and design features will mitigate risk for reversing vehicles and cyclists on the southern side of Waterloo Road.
- The loss of car parks on Birch Street will be mitigated by discouraging long term parking so parking is retained for customers of businesses and shops. Walking and cycling to Waterloo Station will be encouraged.
- The impact of traffic coming from the new RiverLink layout was taken into consideration in the modelling.
- A few potential routes through the CBD will be considered to connect the cycleway with RiverLink as design work is done over the coming months. An integrated design showing an overview of the plans and the result will be provided for consultation. However, the next stage cannot be predicted before the consultation and design stages of this section of the cycleway.
- Climate emergency response funding will be used to fund the design through the CBD to RiverLink.
- Cyclists heading East from the CBD to join the cycleway will be a consideration for the CBD and RiverLink design phase. Businesses and buses also need to be considered.
- It would be helpful for residents to know more about the plan to connect to the CBD and RiverLink when they are consulted.

NEXT STEPS

- The Head of Transport will provide more detailed information on the last consultation responses including demographics, responses and numbers.

- Elected members asked to see consultation material before it was finalised, so there is an opportunity to request changes.
- Officers will report back to Council's Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee in May 2023 after consultation, for Council's approval of the design before work begins in Spring or Summer 2023.

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Attachment 1 – Presentation: East-West Walking and Cycling Improvements – Waterloo Station to CBD connection.

The briefing closed at 6.42 pm