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Feedback Form – Apollo and Orbit Drives Pedestrian Facilities

Introduction

Business North Harbour, formerly North Harbour Business Association, represents 4,000 commercial property and business owners located within the business district north of Constellation Drive/Upper Harbour Highway and south of Albany metropolitan centre.

The number of businesses in this area has grown from 1480 in the year 2000 to 3717 in 2014 *(source Auckland Council Business Demographic data, 2014).

Our submission on the Pedestrian Facilities on Apollo Drive and Orbit Drive is as follows.

Sarah de Zwart
Transport and Relationship Manager
Business North Harbour

Assumptions:

Business North Harbour has not undertaken independent verification of Auckland Transport's plans nor designs.

Our positioning is based on the assumption that Auckland Transport's plans are both robust and accurate. If this proves not to be the case, our position and subsequent evidence may need to change.

Our Process

Business North Harbour was advised that Auckland Transport were in consultation regarding proposed changes to pedestrian crossings located within the North Harbour Business District. We were advised that Auckland Transport had sent letters to the affected properties and businesses within the area.

As a service to our members, we personally contacted all the tenants/owners who were in the immediate vicinity of the new changes. We needed to understand the level of support, or opposition, to these plans and the impact on both access and parking these changes would have on our business and property owner membership – and their staff.

Our Findings

Of significant concern was that of the twenty-three companies/owners contacted by Business North Harbour, only five were aware of the changes.

Please find attached the results of the contact made by Business North Harbour.

There was general support in favour of the pedestrian crossing outside 83 Apollo Drive with the existing safety concern.

The majority of the businesses contacted were located around the pedestrian crossing at 83 Apollo and Orbit Drive, their feedback related to both of these pedestrian crossings.

There was general acceptance of the bus stops relocation requirement.

Objections:

However, there was a concern for the requirement of the crossing at 93 in conjunction with the bus stop, resulting in a total of 69.7m of removed street carparks, at 5m per standard carpark that is a decrease in 14 carparks. It was observed numerous times that it was only a small walking distance to the 83 Apollo pedestrian crossing.

There was also a concern of the increase of 17m of the new no stopping lines on Orbit Drive, which again removes 3 carparks.

Further clarification and information required

Auckland Transport are finalising the new Public Transport routes as the outcomes of the Public Transport Network Review – North. Please provide confirmation that the new bus stop shown as part of this consultation process, will continue to be used throughout the existing and new bus schedule changes. We have previously requested patronage figures for the new bus stop, but have yet to receive.

We require further evidence regarding the patronage of the park (located 80-90 Apollo Drive), resulting in the removal of 14 critical parks. Based on our feedback from member visits, there is not sufficient patronage nor demand for crossings directly outside of this park, to justify the loss of parking for staff and trade visitors.

Once received, we will publish this additional information, and our submission on our website www.businessnh.org.nz so that our members know their feedback has been forwarded to Auckland Transport.

Conclusion

Overall Business North Harbour, and those members contacted, support the new crossings at 83 Apollo Drive and Orbit Drive.

However, further information is required regarding the proposed 93 Apollo Drive crossing, also the increased no parking on Orbit Drive as stated.

Thank you.