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Feedback Form –Albany Highway / Rothwell Avenue Pedestrian & Cyclist Crossing
Signalisation

Introduction

Business North Harbour, represents approximately 4,500 commercial property and business owners located within the business district north of Constellation Drive/Upper Harbour Highway and south of Oteha Valley Road. This business district attracts 30,000 plus employees per day, and more than 4,500 students across business district, with Massey University (approximately 6,800 students) and Rangitoto College (approximately 3,250 students) on the boundary.

Albany has been identified by Auckland's regional council as a strategic area of growth for Auckland (Auckland Plan 2010-2040).

Our submission on the Albany Highway / Rothwell Avenue Pedestrian & Cyclist Crossing Signalisation are as follows.

Sarah de Zwart
Transport and Relationship Manager
Business North Harbour

Assumptions:

Business North Harbour have 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 were advised on 25 October 2017, that Auckland Transport were in formal consultation regarding proposed changes to the aforementioned roads. We were advised that Auckland Transport had delivered letters to the affected properties and businesses within the area. It is unsure whether the property owners have been advised.

As a service to our members, we personally contacted all the residing businesses 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

There is overall support in favour of the removal of the transit lane reverting it back to a general mixed traffic lane. There is support for the erection of traffic lights at the corner of Rothwell and Albany Highway.

There is general opposition to the removal of the on-street parking on both sides of the road at the beginning of Rothwell Avenue to facilitate a cycle path.

Of the 30+ businesses contacted by Business North Harbour, only 4 businesses were aware of the proposed road changes through Auckland Transport.

Objections:

There were limited objections:

- There was an initial general confusion over the wording of the proposed changes, which included the use and location of the lights. It was also unclear that the on-street parking on both sides of Rothwell Avenue on the approach to the Albany Highway, were to be removed to accommodate the cycle lane. Subsequently through our discussions with the affected parties, they are now clear.

- Five complainants were concerned over the removal of the on-street parking to accommodate the cycle lane, as stated by all, the parking within the area is in constant use.
- A common query from our members was for the existing transit lanes, that signs should be erected clearly stating where it is safe to access the T2 lanes prior to turning, without being penalized.

Conclusion

Overall Business North Harbour, and those members contacted, support the signalization of Rothwell Avenue and the removal of the T2 lanes between Rothwell Avenue and Bush Road. However, we oppose the removal of the on-street parking on Rothwell Avenue to install cycle lanes. We recommend that the existing path be converted to a shared cycle and walking path instead.

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.

Thank you.