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Congestion Review of the Ramp and Sunset Roads Area, Rosedale, Auckland

Introduction

Business North Harbour represents approximately 4,500 commercial property and business owners located within the business district north of Parkway Drive/Upper Harbour Highway and south of Oteha Valley Road. This business district employs over 35,000 employees.

Ramp Road is located on the peripheral of the Business North Harbour BID area, however it is a main connecting road in and out of our area.

Early 2018 Business North Harbour requested Auckland Transport review the parking and congestion on Ramp Road. We recommended a review of the current evening clearway on the Eastern side of the road which currently operates from 4pm-6pm. Business North Harbour recommended that the clearway commence an hour earlier from 3pm on weekdays.

Our submission on the installation of roundabout and change of signs on Ramp Road, are as follows:

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Relationship and Transport Manager



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Location

Ramp Road is a critical link for the North Harbour area, as it connects Sunset Road to the South, which is a link between the East Coast Bays and Glenfield/Wairau area. To the North it connects to Parkway Drive which feeds to Constellation Drive. Constellation Drive is a main arterial connecting State Highway 1 and the Western motorway at the Western end, and to the rest of the North Harbour area, and East Coast Bays at the Eastern end.

Parkway Drive also accommodates the North Shore Police Station, the main station on the North Shore, and the Constellation Drive Park'n'rides station. Therefore, it is essential there is always unhindered accessibility to the road.

Ramp Road is seen as a through road with only four businesses and two residential properties, with a Ramp Road address.

As a location, the Albany (North Harbour) area has been identified by Auckland's Council as a strategic (nodal) area of growth for Auckland (Auckland Plan 2050).

Our Process

On 24th May 2018, Business North Harbour requested Auckland Transport review Ramp Road with regards to the parking which was creating congestion in the evening peak times.

Business North Harbour were advised on 7th August 2018 of a formal consultation regarding a proposed pedestrian crossing at the Northern end of Ramp Road, which also includes a build out of the berm on both sides. Auckland Transport stated the review was implemented due to safety complaints from crossing the road.

Our Findings

Overall there is support for the pedestrian crossing and the berm increase development. The main factor in the positive decision was the safety from the employees and members of the public who regularly cross.

However, the support for the berm increase as outlined in the plans, was conditional to ensure that there remained sufficient room for the Eastern side of the road to continue to be able to split into two lanes. This enables drivers to vacate the area more rapidly, thereby reducing congestion in the peak evening period.

It was agreed that the clearway on the Eastern side of Ramp Road should commence at 3pm to alleviate the congestion build up.

Two businesses suggested the replacement of the give way sign to a stop sign at the intersection of Parkway Drive, to reduce the speed of the cars turning left onto Parkway Drive.

Upon review of the Auckland Transport research for Ramp Road, Business North Harbour are questioning the financial investment for the refuge and the business case to support the development with as noted a total of 10* pedestrian crossings per day.

A review of the intersection between Sunset Road and Ramp Road, with a proposed roundabout development to ensure an even flow of traffic. By developing a roundabout and future proofing it for signalisation, would reduce a buildup on Sunset Road turning right onto Ramp, and Ramp turning right onto Sunset in to mornings. This would also assist cars wanting to exit Sycamore Road turning right. With the opposite in the evenings.

*Auckland Transports: Parkway Dr-Ramp Rd Rosedale Pedestrian Counts Weather Fine Wed 16/08/2017 Graph

Conclusion

Business North Harbour are in general supportive of the pedestrian crossing, as it is expected to improve the safety of the pedestrian crossings between the western and eastern sides of Ramp Road.

However, we are requesting a copy of Auckland Transports business case which supports the development.

We request a 'stop' sign replace the 'give way' sign at the intersection of Parkway and Ramp Road.

We also request the increase in hours of the clearway on the Eastern side from 3pm to 6pm.

Lastly, we recommend a full traffic review of the intersection at Ramp Road and Sunset Roads, with a traffic island as a viable option of increasing the flow of the traffic.

We will publish our submission on our website www.businessnh.org.nz so that our members know their feedback has been forwarded to Auckland Transport.

If you have any questions, please contact the author.

Thank you.