

**SUBMISSION: PAUL MATTHEWS ROAD
PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS
15TH FEBRUARY 2022**

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Reference: NOP2122-002 - Paul Matthews Road Pedestrian Improvements

Introduction

Business North Harbour (BNH) is a significant commercial and industrial Business Improvement District (BID), representing over 4,500 commercial property owners and businesses within the North Harbour area. Collectively they employ over 35,000 Auckland residents and ratepayers.

Our businesses comprise of a mix of sole traders, small medium enterprises, through to multi-national organisations. Who represent sectors such as ICT, business services, specialist manufacturing and light - medium warehousing.

In addition, we have key educational institutions within or on our boundary, including Massey University Albany and AUT Millennium, along with a variety of primary and secondary schools including Rangitoto College, the largest bricks and mortar secondary school in New Zealand.

All within an industrial estate which is on average less than 25 years old.

Our primary interests within Auckland Council are decisions which:

- Impact on the cost of business – across a short to medium timeframe
- Impact on economic development and the ability to leverage value from location
- Support or restrict business growth opportunities
- Impact on access to both regional and localised transport hubs
- Impact on R&D and investment – sector development and capability

Background

Auckland Transport (AT) contacted Business North Harbour in February 2022 with regards to the following proposal:

We are proposing to improve pedestrian safety and access of public transport by upgrading two crossings.

At approximately 43 Paul Matthews Road, we are proposing to:

- *Install traffic lights with separate pedestrian and cyclist push buttons.*
- *Upgrade the existing pedestrian refuge crossing point to a raised pedestrian crossing...*

At approximately 65 Paul Matthews Road, we are proposing to:

- *Install a pedestrian refuge crossing...*
- *Install signs and paint road markings to support the upgraded crossing. This will include reversing the direction of the entry and exit of the North Harbour Mews (65 Paul Matthews Road) car park...*

With the Northern Corridor Improvements near completion, it has altered Paul Matthews Road to become a major arterial road linking the Northern Corridor and State Highway 1

to the Rosedale and Albany area. In addition to its original purpose of connecting to the neighbouring residential area of Unsworth Heights and the business district.

Business North Harbour Feedback

BNH are pleased that AT had notified the businesses within the area with the proposal.

Due to the current COVID situation it was decided that the members be contacted either via phone or email, rather than the usual physical visit that BNH would usually conduct. With the locations being site specific, members their Body Corporates and the emergency services including St John Ambulance, Police, and Fire & Emergency NZ were sent the information.

A total of 59 individuals were contacted.

The local services will be presenting their own submissions, with the following not including their feedback.

There was an overall positive response to the proposal for the changes in both locations. With the following comments:

43 Paul Matthews Road

- Changing to a raised pedestrian crossing and traffic lights seems to be over kill for the few people who use the crossing. It would increase traffic congestion.
- A raised pedestrian crossing would not work in a major arterial when trucks and emergency services would use this route frequently to access the motorway.

65 Paul Matthews Road

- Questioning the reversing the direction of the exit and entry into the North Harbour Mews requirement. With the concern that the exiting cars will be held up from the entering cars turning left if there was a queue. There would be general confusion over the change.

Conclusion

With Paul Matthews being a main feeder from the motorways and connector between a residential area and businesses the main feedback from our members is to reduce congestion and keep the area flowing. Therefore, Business North Harbour on behalf of our members agrees with Auckland Transport proposal in principle, with two amendments.

For 43 Paul Matthews Road provide a traffic light pedestrian crossing, with no raised crossing, to ensure the flow of traffic and the safety of our emergency services.

We ask you to review the reasoning behind changing the onsite direction of flow in and out of the Mews. If it is decided to proceed, then clear onsite signage and markings must be installed in addition to member notification.

We also ask that the Emergency Services be included in any future roading proposals.

Although we understand that there will be no opportunity to make a presentation on this Submission, should there be any questions or other matters arising from this Submission, we would be happy to respond.

Yours sincerely,

SARAH DE ZWART

Relationship and Transport Manager