

Item 10: Operations

10.1 High Pedestrian Activity Area - Mudgee CBD

REPORT BY THE MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
TO 21 JULY 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, R0790087

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager - Infrastructure Planning on the High Pedestrian Activity Area - Mudgee CBD;**
2. **resolve to implement the High Pedestrian Activity Area - Mudgee CBD;**
3. **authorise the General Manager to:**
 - a) **accept funding from Transport for NSW (note works are fully funded by Transport for NSW);**
 - b) **negotiate, sign and finalise funding agreement to progress the works; and**
4. **amend the 2021/22 budget to include expenditure of \$70,000 fully funded by Transport for NSW.**

Executive summary

Five crashes involving pedestrians have occurred in the Mudgee CBD in the last five years resulting in one fatality and four people injured.

With Mudgee's increasing population and tourist visitations there is consistent concern arising from the community about the growth of the town centre and its impacts on residents, businesses and visitors.

Works are currently underway to improve lighting at pedestrian crossings and line mark car parking bays, forming part of a viable answer to address this concern. To augment and increase the effectiveness of this package of works, it is recommended a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) be implemented in select locations of the Mudgee CBD. When instigated the effect will be a permanent change in speed limit from 50km/h to 40km/h in select locations on Market Street, Mortimer Street, Church Street and Perry Street. The school zone on Lewis Street and part of Mortimer Street will remain operating at 40km/h during school hours of 8-9:30am and 2:30-4pm and 50km/h at other times.

This proposal is supported by Transport for NSW and NSW Police and has been discussed the Local Traffic Committee.

A budget of \$70,000 for the works is to be allowed. Transport for NSW will fully fund the project.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Since 1991 High Pedestrian Activity Areas (HPAA) have been applied in 174 locations across NSW.

At Council's ordinary meeting 18 November 2020 it was resolved "*That Council endorse in principle the installation of a High Pedestrian Activity Area in Mudgee CBD as outlined in the body of the report*". This allowed staff to undertake more detailed consultation which included;

- Discussion with property owners adjacent to proposed new signage in Mortimer Street and adjust the proposed locations of signage based on feedback to minimise impact
- Discussion with St Matthew's School regarding adjustment to School zone signage in Mortimer Street.
- A letter box drop to property owners adjacent to other proposed signage
- A survey via "yoursay" through Council's website
- Media release and follow up interviews regarding the above survey

The result of the consultation reflected neither strong opposition or support for the proposal. A summary of responses to the on-line survey are attached for information.

139 responses were received. Overwhelmingly, the 'yes' respondents agreed with the safety improvements of the proposal. The 'no' respondents referred to the following items the most:

1. Not possible to reach a speed of 50km/h anyway
2. Concerned about congestion
3. Pedestrians don't cross the roads appropriately
4. Would like to see improvements to pedestrian crossings
5. Unnecessary / no accidents involving pedestrians.

Now the survey respondents did not have access to the statistics or scientific research. The following information is submitted for consideration.

- 1 fatality & 4 injuries have resulted from crashes involving pedestrians in the Mudgee CBD in the last 5 years.
- 2016 Census statistics has Mudgee's population standing at 10,966. Population projections for Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area, 2005-2031, prepared by Ratio Consultants forecasts a Mudgee population of 14,070 in 2031.
- The Mudgee region is currently receiving 13,300 tourists each week. This number may increase as the region gains popularity.
- There has been consistent community concern about the growth of the town centre and its impacts on residents, businesses and visitors.
- Managing speed is key to pedestrian safety. Pedestrians hit by a car at 40km/h have twice the chance of surviving than if hit at 50km/h.
- Centre for Road Safety crash analyses show statistically significant reductions in crashes and casualty crashes on the HPAA zone roads after the HPAA zones had been implemented.
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The Centre for Road Safety has shown the benefits of a HPAA to be:

- Improved road safety
- Reduced crash incidents
- Safe access and enjoyment of the urban village atmosphere of the local restaurants, cafes and the many shopping experiences
- Improved safety for vulnerable groups such as the mobility impaired, older road users and children
- Improve mobility within the CBD, encouraging cycling & walking

The location of the proposed HPAA covers the areas of high pedestrian activity within Mudgee CBD and is detailed on the plan attached to this report. Following consultation at Council's 16 June 2021 workshop the HPAA is now planned to extend to the area between Market Street and Mortimer Street.

The installation of signage at the entry and exit to the HPAA zone will mainly be installed on existing blisters at roundabouts. Additional small islands are proposed to be installed in Mortimer Street west of Lewis Street, Church Street just south of Clarke Street and Market Street west of Post Office Drive. 40km/h speed zone will also be line marked on road pavement at entry points. It is proposed to introduce marked angle parking in conjunction with installation of HPAA to ensure there is no overall loss of parking.

The School Zone signage on Mortimer Street will be upgraded to solar powered flashing 40km/hr as currently exists on the Lewis Street legs.

No financial contribution is to be made by Council as the project will be 100% funded by the NSW State Government. It is appropriate Council accept this funding and progress the works.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Connecting Our Region
Goal	High quality road network that is safe and efficient
Strategy	Provide traffic management solutions that promote safer local roads and minimise traffic congestion

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

HPAA has been discussed at Local Traffic Committee and is fully supported by Police.

Council Policies

Not applicable

Legislation

Road Rules 2014

Financial implications

Funding is being offered from the NSW State Government and will be administered through Transport for NSW. The associated costs are estimated at \$70,000. No contributions are to be made by Council as this project is 100% State Government funded.

Receiving external grant funding deteriorates our Own Source Revenue ratio.
Building new infrastructure will increase depreciation in future years, hence has a negative impact on the Building & Infrastructure Renewal ratio.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2021/22	-	X	-
Future Years	-	X	X

Associated Risks

Council Staff will manage project risk such as program and cost.

RAY KEARNS
MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

GARRY HEMSWORTH
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

30 June 2021

Attachments: 1. High Pedestrian Activity Area - Mudgee CBD Plan & Survey Results.
(separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER