

9.5 NOTICE OF MOTION 932 - INVESTIGATION OF PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT NEAR KILMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Attachments: Nil

SUMMARY

In accordance with Notice of Motion 932, an investigation of pedestrian movement along Conway Street and Kilmore-Lancefield Road in the vicinity of Kilmore Primary School and St. Patricks Primary School has been conducted.

This report discusses the options available to Council to improve pedestrian safety in this precinct.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the information contained in this report.
2. Refers the construction of a new footpath along the east side of Conway Street between Kilmore-Lancefield Road and the Kilmore CFA to future Capital Works budgets.
3. Receive a further report six months after the construction of the new footpath on the North side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road which assesses the ongoing demand for a potential Children's Crossing in Conway Street near Kilmore-Lancefield Road.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 19 February 2018, Council passed a Notice of Motion (932) that stated:

"Council officers undertake a needs assessment of school children's pedestrian safety and prepare costings for the following two infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of Kilmore-Lancefield Road and Conway Street in Kilmore and refer these to the 2018-2019 Capital Works Program for consideration and whilst doing so, consider the relevance to the existing crossings:

1. *The installation of a new supervised Children's Crossing in Conway Street near Kilmore-Lancefield Road.*
2. *The completion of the missing link footpath on the North side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road between Kingsgate Village and Church Street."*

It is noted that Item 2 of this motion was funded as part of the 2018-2019 Capital Works Program and is currently in the early planning stages of delivery.

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This report considers the remaining Item 1 and the relevance of the existing crossings in this area in line with the Notice of Motion No. 932.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1 below details the current footpath network and locations of existing Supervised Children's Crossing infrastructure that currently services this precinct. An additional Supervised Children's Crossing (not shown in Figure 1) is located in Sutherland Street adjacent to Assumption College.

Figure 1 also identifies the proposed missing link footpath along the north side Kilmore-Lancefield Road which has been funded as part of the 2018-2019 Capital Works Program as well as a missing link footpath identified in Conway Street for consideration in future budgets.

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Figure 1. Locality and Pedestrian Facility Plan.

Existing footpaths and Children’s Crossings cater for most pedestrian movements in this precinct, however pedestrian movements in an East-West direction along Kilmore-Lancefield Road across the intersection with Conway Street are not currently well catered for.

This is the desired path of travel for School Children (in particular students attending Kilmore Primary School) who reside in residential areas to the west of Kilmore.

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Site observations conducted during morning and afternoon school commuting periods revealed that pedestrians travelling East-West to/from Kilmore Primary School will generally cross Conway Street near the intersection of Kilmore Lancefield Road, utilising the existing footpath along the southern side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road. The existing supervised Children's Crossing located near Kulin Drive is also utilised. This movement requires pedestrians to cross at the intersection of Conway Street and Kilmore Lancefield Road.

This crossing is not supported by any pedestrian priority treatment and requires pedestrians to cross the road using their own judgement.

Options for consideration

To improve the safety of pedestrians in this precinct, a number of options are available for consideration. These options are:

1. Construct a footpath on the north side of Kilmore Lancefield Road between Willowmavin Estate and the existing Children's Crossing on Kilmore Lancefield Road (on the frontage of the Kilmore Primary School) as planned in the 2018-2019 Capital Works Program;
2. Construct a footpath on the East side of Conway Street between Kilmore-Lancefield Road and existing footpaths near the Kilmore CFA.
3. Provide a new supervised Children's Crossing on Conway Street near the intersection of Kilmore-Lancefield Road;

New footpath on the North side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road

This footpath link was identified as a key missing link footpath for this precinct due primarily to its function as an important off-road connection between growing residential areas to the West of Kilmore and the Kilmore Town Centre. The project has received funding in the 2018-2019 Capital Works Program and planning is currently underway.

The construction of this footpath will not only provide a key link between these residential areas and the Town Centre, but it will offer an alternative path of travel for school aged children travelling between these residential areas and the Kilmore Primary School via the existing Supervised Children's Crossing on Kilmore-Lancefield Road adjacent to this Primary School.

The full effectiveness of this new footpath in attracting use by school aged children is largely dependent on the establishment of more suitable travel behaviors which would include the use of the existing supervised Children's Crossing on Kilmore-Lancefield Road adjacent to Kilmore Primary School.

The administration of the Kilmore Primary School could promote greater use of this existing Children's Crossing to promote consistent ongoing use of this new footpath.

The attractiveness of this new footpath link for use by Kilmore Primary School children could be further enhanced through the relocation of this existing Children's Crossing further west along Kilmore-Lancefield Road to be more centrally located along the

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frontage of Kilmore Primary School, however this could also serve to diminish the convenience of this Children's Crossing for pedestrians moving between Sutherland Street and Church Street (i.e. towards the Town Centre). This option would require further consultation with the Kilmore Primary School. At this stage, the relocation of this crossing is not recommended.

New footpath on East side of Conway Street

The construction of a new footpath along the East side of Conway Street between Kilmore-Lancefield Road and the Kilmore CFA would provide for pedestrian movement between St.Patricks Primary School and Kilmore Primary School and beyond to the Kilmore Town Centre.

In the past, Council has received a small number of requests for this footpath to be built, however officers did not observe a significant demand for this footpath during site visits. It was observed that many students travelling between St.Patricks Primary School and the Kilmore Town Centre use the VicTrack land between Conway Street and Sutherland Street. Due to these site observations, this footpath is not considered a high priority.

New Supervised Children's Crossing on Conway Street (near Kilmore-Lancefield Road)

The provision of a new supervised Children's Crossing in Conway Street near the intersection of Kilmore-Lancefield Road would assist with the East-West movement of pedestrians along Kilmore-Lancefield Road.

During site observations of this precinct, a pedestrian count was carried out to establish the current usage profile of this intersection by pedestrians, particularly school aged children. These observations are summarised in Table 1 below along with the most recent count data from the existing 4 Children's Crossings in the area.

Table 1. Pedestrian crossing data.

| Location | Speed Zone | Primary School aged Children (C) | Vehicles per hr (V) | Multiple C x V | Date | Meets Crossing Warrants | Meets Supervision Warrants |
|--|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Conway Street near Kilmore Lancefield Road | 50 | 52 | 391 | 20332 | Oct-2018 | Yes | Yes |
| Conway Street, midblock @ School | 40 | 305 | 399 | 121695 | Nov-2017 | Yes | Yes |
| Kilmore Lancefield Road near Church Street | 40 | 31 | 441 | 13671 | Mar-2016 | Yes | Yes |
| Kilmore Lancefield Road near Kulin Drive | 60 | 20 | 608 | 12160 | Oct-2015 | Yes | Yes |
| Sutherland Street, midblock @ School | 40 | 50 | 163 | 8150 | Oct-2015 | Yes | Yes |

 - Existing Crossing

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The installation of new Children's Crossing is a road management function that is delegated to Council provided that the crossings meet the required VicRoads warrants. Where these warrants are not met, VicRoads approval is required.

The warrants are as follows;

- Number of children, **C** (minimum 20, crossing road within 20m of proposed crossing location)
- Number of vehicles in the hour, **V** (minimum 50).

From a funding perspective, the implementation of any new Children's Crossing is at the complete discretion of Council, however for a given Children's Crossing to be eligible for the State Governments Children's Crossing subsidy scheme, the following warrants must be met;

- Number of children, **C** (minimum 20)
- Number of vehicles in the hour, **V** (minimum 100), and
- **C x V** must exceed 5,000.

From the observations recorded on site, this location would be eligible for the installation of a Children's Crossing and would also be eligible for a subsidised Children's Crossing Supervisor under the State Government scheme.

The implementation of any new Children's Crossing is governed by the requirements outlined in the Traffic Engineering Manual, Vol 1 – Chapter 4, item 3. In line with this manual, any new crossing must adhere to set back distances from any intersection. The minimum distance that any new Children's Crossing can be considered in the proximity of an intersection is 15m, however it is the officers recommendation that this distance should be increased to a minimum setback distance from Kilmore-Lancefield Road of 30m due to traffic safety and sightline purposes.

Evaluation of options

The construction of a new footpath along the north side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road will significantly improve the travel options for school aged children throughout this precinct and will offer significant risk reductions for pedestrian movement in an East-West direction along Kilmore-Lancefield Road.

Further, the future construction of a footpath along the East side of Conway Street will further enhance the travel options in this precinct whilst making the best use of existing Children's Crossing infrastructure in this precinct. This project will be referred to the Capital Program for funding consideration.

Whilst the current usage profile being experienced at the intersection of Conway Street and Kilmore-Lancefield Road meets the warrants for the installation of a supervised Children's Crossing, it is anticipated that much of this demand for East-West pedestrian movement can be met through the construction of the new footpath on the North side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road.

The use of the new footpath and the appropriate use of the existing supervised Children's Crossings in this precinct should be further encouraged and promoted by the administration of both primary schools in this precinct.

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It is recommended that the travel patterns of school aged children are monitored once the new footpath on the North side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road is constructed. Should pedestrian traffic crossing Conway Street at Kilmore-Lancefield Road remain steady, further consideration of a Children's Crossing at this location could be considered in future budgets.

Existing Children's Crossings

The existing supervised Children's Crossings in this precinct were also reviewed for relevance in line with the Notice of Motion. In general, these Children's Crossings are well sited and operating effectively with no substantial operational issues noted.

The four crossings support the predominate pedestrian desire lines and movements, with the exception being the movement previously discussed in this report. All 4 sites meet the warrants for the provision of a supervised Children's Crossing based on the most recent counts.

It is considered that all four crossings continue to be required to facilitate the safe movement of school children throughout the precinct. The provision of the footpath on the northern side of Kilmore Lancefield Road should suitably cover all major pedestrian desire lines from the two primary schools with some encouragement from the Primary School administration.

CONSULTATION

The Kilmore Primary School was consulted as part of the 2018/2019 Capital Works Program project to provide a footpath on the northern side of Kilmore Lancefield Road. The school strongly supported this project and its early delivery.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A new footpath on the northern side of Kilmore-Lancefield Road has been funded in the 2018/2019 Capital Works Program at a cost of \$150,000. This project is currently under development and is proposed to be delivered within the financial year. Once delivered the footpath will be included in Councils asset management system for ongoing maintenance activities in line with our adopted Road Management Plan.

The provision of a new footpath on the East side of Conway Street is estimated to cost \$80,000.

The provision of a new Children's Crossing in Conway Street is estimated to cost \$25,000 in initial infrastructure expenditure, while ongoing costs to supervise this crossing are approximately \$17,000 annually.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There are no known policy or legislative implications associated with the contents of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)

There are no substantial environmental impacts identified with the provision of this footpath. The footpath will provide significant improvements in active transport outcomes for the community.

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CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

The footpath on the north side of Kilmore Lancefield Road from the Willowmavin Country Estate through to Church Street should be provided in line with the project adopted in Council's 2018-2019 budget. This footpath, along with support from school administration and the use of the existing crossing infrastructure will significantly improve safety for school children and other pedestrians in the area.

The ongoing demand for a potential Children's Crossing in Conway Street near Kilmore-Lancefield Road should be monitored once the construction of the above footpath is completed.