



Item 7.1 Petition - Requesting to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer

A change.org Petition containing 258 signatures, was received from local residents.

The Petition states the following: -

The City of Port Phillip recently distributed a letter to residents with the subject "Trial of safety improvements on Kerferd Road at Montague and Herbert Streets. Albert Park".

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/traffic-and-roads>

The council is informing residents that they will close the median that crosses over Kerferd Road at the intersection with Montague and Herbert Streets, from October 1st, 2020.

This has apparently come about as a result of a petition submitted to council by a group (26) of local residents concerned about the accidents at this intersection.

Whilst we share the concerns safety about this intersection, we are equally concerned by the way the City of Port Phillip approached this matter.

- 1 *The council did not more widely consult with residents, acting on behest of only 26 residents.*
- 2 *The council has not considered the inconvenience caused to residents by the roads closure.*
- 3 *The council did not evaluate the potential impact on Kerferd road and surrounding streets traffic as a result of the closure. Much of which could be calculated without the need to close the median for a trial.*
- 4 *The council did not look at alternative solutions that would improve safety without impacting on residents.*

As residents who are familiar with the traffic in this area, we believe that the closure of this median crossing will have the following impacts.

- 1) *Without traffic slowing to turn into the median, the speed of traffic on this section of Kerferd road will increase. The speed of traffic turning from Ferrars Street or coming from Albert Road is a well-known issue to local residents.*
- 2) *The turning traffic and associated safety issues will be moved down to Hambleton Street as cars will use this median to get back to Montague Street.*
- 3) *The greater traffic volume and higher speeds will make it more dangerous to cross Kerferd road.*
- 4) *It will put unnecessary pressure on smaller secondary streets, as local traffic will be forced to look for alternatives.*

We are petitioning the City of Port Phillip and the Traffic Management section to defer the proposed closure and to look at alternative solutions and partake in wider community consultation before any expenditure is undertaken.

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 18 NOVEMBER 2020



OFFICER COMMENT

On 1 July 2020 Council, in response to a community petition, approved the Kerferd Road Safety Improvements Trial (the Trial) to commence in early October 2020.

In responding to this petition, Council took a precautionary approach by endorsing the Kerferd Road Safety Improvement Trial to address the safety concerns raised about the intersection of Kerferd Road with Montague and Herbert Streets and to discourage through traffic using these local streets.

Due to COVID restrictions further traffic data collection was not able to be conducted and existing information was used to determine traffic management treatments to be undertaken as part of the Trial.

The purpose of the traffic management treatments was to improve safety for people walking and bike riding, deter through traffic and reduce vehicle speeding on these local streets. Because of the need to progress quickly in responding to the safety risks identified in the petition, Council resolved to inform the community and use temporary materials. The intent of the Trial was that it could be evaluated and if not effective be readily removed at a modest cost.

Notification of surrounding properties, approximately 620 properties, was undertaken in mid-August as per the Council resolution.

Community concerns in response to the Trial culminated in a counter-petition lodged with Council on 22 September 2020. As a counter-petition had been received at the start of the Election caretaker period, the trial was placed on-hold to ensure there was an opportunity for Council to consider the counter-petition before the trialling of traffic management changes were implemented.

Since the easing of COVID restriction, Council officers have been gathering further evidence to inform the urgency and nature of works required to mitigate the safety risks at this intersection. This includes transport data collection and an independent Road Safety Audit.

The Victorian Government has allocated \$13M funding to enhance the safety and amenity of the 'Shrine to Sea' corridor that runs along Kerferd and Albert roads between St Kilda Road and Beaconsfield Parade and Port Phillip Bay. The proposed Trial falls within the project area.

The Shrine to Sea project is being led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in partnership with Council. The Shrine to Sea Project can consider the issues raised in the counter petition regarding the Kerferd Road intersection and provides further opportunities for holistic community engagement on these issues.

The officer recommendation for responding to this new petition will consider the Council resolution of 1 July 2020, the matters raised in the petition lodged with Council on 22 September 2020 and the findings of the independent Road Safety Audit. These will be set in the context of DELWP's community engagement process for its Shrine to Sea Project, which includes Kerferd Road and the changes to travel patterns as COVID restrictions continue to ease.

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 18 NOVEMBER 2020



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Petition.
2. Requests Council Officers provide a response to this petition at the next available Council meeting in December.
3. Notes that Council Officers will notify the head petitioners of both petitions of Council's endorsed recommendation.

TRIM FILE NO: F20/1

ATTACHMENTS Nil