

Feedback from the Ōrākei Local Board on the Proposed Pedestrian Refuge, Tamaki Drive, Kohimarama

The Board recognises that the site of this proposed refuge is a commonly used cross point for residents from the southern side of Tamaki Drive accessing Kohimarama Beach, existing bus stops, and Tamaki Drive for cycling and other commuting/recreational purposes.

The nearby intersection at Kohimarama Rd/Tamaki Drive, is only metres from the proposed refuge and is well known locally as a problematic corner for motorists turning right into the traffic flow along Tamaki Drive from Kohimarama Rd. The Board asks that should the installation of the pedestrian refuge proceed, Auckland Transport ensures that there is adequate length available along the median strip west of the refuge to allow motorists to merge with traffic flow which is often very heavy at peak hours during the week and all day on fine weekends.

The location of the existing pedestrian crossing near to the Averill Avenue/Tamaki Drive intersection has been the cause of concern since it was established. It has poor sight lines and there have been accidents and many near misses, particularly with cyclists riding through the crossing at speed. It has a high volume of pedestrian users as it services a cluster of cafes, a bar, a restaurant and a small food grocer business. In summer months there is a steady flow of people crossing to the beach after purchasing ice-creams, drinks and snacks. It is presently conveniently located for pedestrians crossing to those businesses and accessing the beach, but is an increasing concern for many of our residents for the safety issues it presents. Consideration should be given to for relocating this crossing further towards the Kohimarama Road intersection. There is also a pedestrian crossing located right on the Sage Road/Tamaki Drive intersection. Therefore, rather than an isolated piece of work the Board strongly suggests the proposed pedestrian refuge be considered in a wider examination of pedestrian options along the stretch of Tamaki Drive adjacent to Kohimarama Beach, and that location of both of these crossings should be re-examined before Auckland Transport's proposal is advanced further.

This area of Tamaki Drive is prone to flooding and will get worse with rising tides and storms. Like any road, Tamaki Drive has a camber with sloping sides. Alongside any proposed pedestrian crossing improvements Auckland Transport should give consideration to road works to mitigate the negative effects of flooding in this area of Tamaki Drive.