

13.1 CR GONTASZEWSKI - NOTICE OF MOTION - ALMA/LEAKE INTERSECTION DIAGONAL DIVERSION

Attachments: 1. Petition - Alma/Leake Diversion - Confidential

That Council REQUESTS the CEO present a report to the May 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting on the outcomes to date of the Alma Road / Leake Street Diagonal Diversion trial, including the results of community consultation, collected traffic data and safety assessment.

REASON

- Unsafe driver behaviour in relation to the diversion has resulted in the city having to install additional barriers/trees and employ staff to monitor driver activity at the diversion.
- Residents have raised safety concerns in relation to the removal of the road island and stop signs on Alma Road.
- Sufficient feedback on community sentiment and modified traffic flows is likely to be available by May 2023 to support long term decision making on the trial.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

The Alma Road and Leake Street Diagonal Diversion trial has been in place for two (2) months (at date of writing) and the first set of traffic data (February 2023) has been processed. Community feedback has highlighted potential safety concerns and Administration can now confirm after comparing the February 2023 set of traffic data to results obtained in 2022, adjoining and adjacent roads and laneways have been negatively impacted upon. Factors which have contributed are;

- Increased traffic volumes.
- Increased speeds.
- Increased heavy vehicles.

Pedestrian crossing points and on-road cyclists have been negatively impacted as refuge islands have been removed on Alma Road and Leake Street to allow sufficient room for the new diagonal road closure to be constructed. Cyclists on Leake Street are required to cross over oncoming traffic to continue through the intersection which was not required when the road was opened to free flowing traffic.

Administration concludes that the diagonal diversion trial has not been successful due to negative traffic and safety implications and recommends that the diagonal trial be discontinued.

In resolving at its meeting held on 23 August 2022 to trial the diagonal diversion, Council also resolved in point 5 –

“Should Main Roads WA not approve the diagonal diversion trial, Council APPROVES Administration to progress the implementation of the 4 way plateau on the intersection of Alma Road and Leake Street, North Perth.”

Given that Main Roads WA approved the diagonal diversion trial, should the trial be discontinued a 4-way plateau does not become the default traffic management treatment.

Nevertheless, Administration supports that the diagonal diversion be replaced with a 4-way raised plateau (see Diagram 1) at the time of removing the diversion infrastructure. This will allow the intersection to receive a more commonly used Local Area Traffic Management treatment as detailed within figure 7.1 “LATM devices commonly used by local government”. The reinstatement of the refuge islands is also recommended to provide protection to pedestrians crossing Alma Road and Leake Street.

Advantages of a 4-way raised plateau are –

- Significant reduction in vehicle speeds in the vicinity of the device.
- Significant reduction in road crashes.
- Relatively low cost to install and maintain.
- May discourage through traffic.
- When used in a series they regulate speeds over the entire length of the street.
- They can be designed to limit discomfort to cyclists.

These treatments have been used on adjacent streets and it is also noted that speeds within the area has been approved by Main Roads WA to be reduced to 40km/h which will also benefit traffic calming.

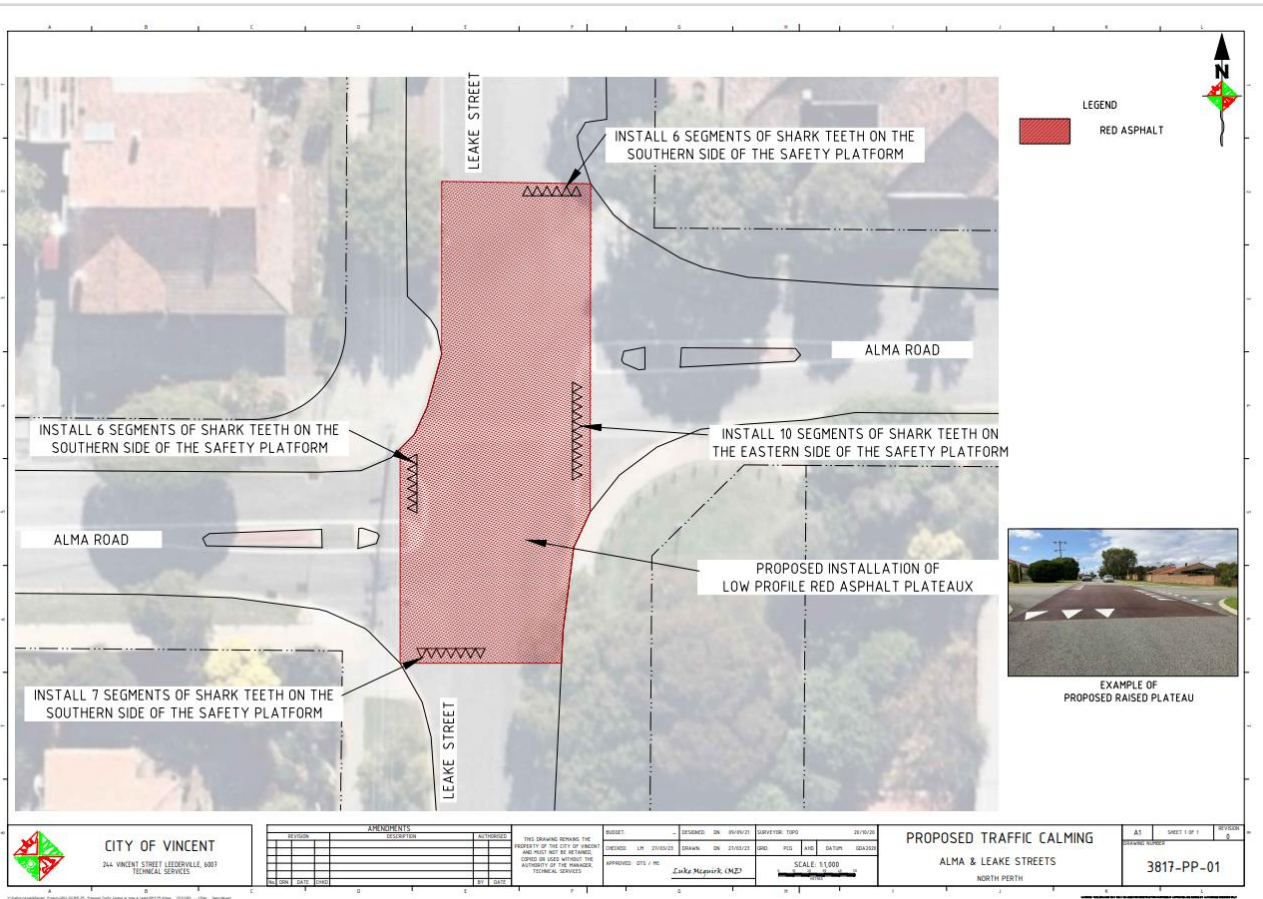
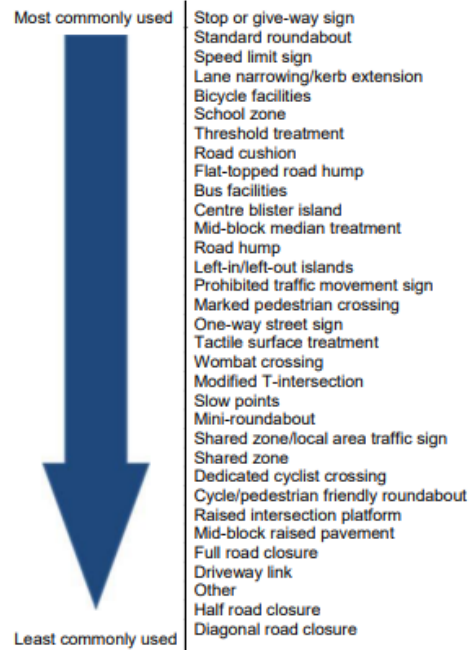


Diagram 1 - 4-way raised plateau

Figure 7.1: LATM devices commonly used by local governments



Source: Damen and Ralston (2015).

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

As addressed in the August 2022 report, initial consultation was undertaken from 24 May 2017 to 18 July 2022. The original survey asked “Do you support a 12-month trial of a diagonal closure at the intersection of Alma Road and Leake Street” with 76.5% answering “No”. The below is an extract of the survey results -

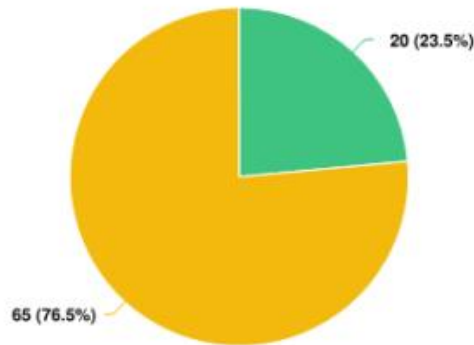
The City of Vincent : Summary Report for 24 May 2017 to 18 July 2022

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

12-month trial of a 'diagonal closure' at the intersection of Alma Road and Leake Street

Visitors 96	Contributors 65	CONTRIBUTIONS 85
--------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Do you support a 12-month trial of a 'diagonal closure' at the intersection of Alma Road and Leake Street?



Question options

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (85 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Consultation undertaken during the diagonal diversion trial opened on 08 March 2023 for the community to provide ongoing feedback on how the trial was performing. As of the 29 March 2023 there has been 27 respondents with 96.3% not supporting the diagonal diversion at the intersection of Leake Street and Alma Road. The below is an extract of the survey results during this period -

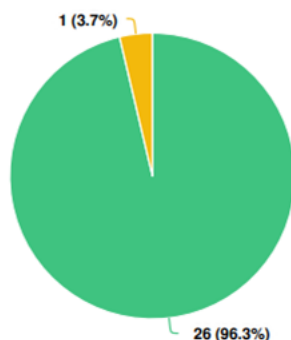
The City of Vincent : Summary Report for 08 March 2023 to 29 March 2023

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Leake St and Alma Rd Diagonal Diversion feedback

Visitors 58	Contributors 27	CONTRIBUTIONS 27
--------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Do you support the diagonal diversion at the intersection of Leake Street and Alma Road in North Perth?



Question options

● No ● Please comment

Optional question (27 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Administration has also kept a register of community concerns with general feedback summarised below -

- Created both an unexpected and dangerous traffic hazard on both Leake St and in the ROW.
- Vehicles driving on the footpath to continue from Alma Rd on the west side of Leake St to the east side.
- Cars are using the footpath areas on both sides to drive through.
- A car sped through in front of kids walking to school.
- I have never had issues with traffic in the laneway previously (it was incredibly rare) but after the intersection closure was installed a car travelling at speed down the laneway almost collided with me.
- The safety issues I feel are of concern, is that young children will need to negotiate two-way through traffic on a bend, with no option but to cross the road in one movement.
- We saw a 4WD on Friday at 3.10pm as I was walking my kids home from school mount the new wider curb in its desire to disregard the new diversion and still turn left when travelling west from Coles on Alma and turning on to Leake.

A petition with 96 signatures has been received as detailed within **Confidential Attachment 1**. An online petition with 466 signatures has also been submitted.

Funding can be sourced from the current Local Area Traffic Management budget for the removal of the diagonal diversion infrastructure and replace with a four-way raised plateau. Four-way plateau construction cost range from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Based on data and feedback on the trial received to date, Administration would recommend that Council:

1. **APPROVES** the discontinuance of the diagonal diversion trial at the intersection of Alma Road and Leake Street, North Perth; and
2. **APPROVES** the installation of a 4-way raised plateau at the above intersection in the current financial year.