11/05/04

Gardeners Road Ramps with Southern Cross Drive

Project Justification

The project has been announced by the Minister and is consistent with the intention to upgrade the roads in the South Sydney area. The project will contribute greatly to the movement of people and goods across the southern inner city area. It is expected that the impact of these ramps could help alleviate congestion as far afield as Cleveland Street. It should provide a significant contribution to the economy by way of improving transport efficiency, alleviating congestion, improving traffic flows and reducing travel times.

The ramps will provide a new link to access a major arterial route. It will improve traffic efficiency and will also service the increase in transport demand anticipated from both the expected developments and growth in the South Sydney area and from the Cross City Tunnel. The project:

- improves traffic efficiency;
- opens a new link to a major arterial;
- improves traffic flow on the network;
- services expected growth.

Southern Cross Drive – Gardeners Road
Provision of South Facing Ramps

Project Title: Southern Cross Drive (MR 593) and Gardeners Road (MR183), Eastlakes. Provision of south facing ramps.

Background

On 24th January 2003 the Minister for Roads announced an $80 million, 10-year program of works to upgrade and improve the road network in South Sydney. This program includes south facing ramps at the intersection of Gardeners Road with Southern Cross Drive

Early considerations of road network issues and the indicative benefit cost estimates have indicated that the provision of access ramps from Gardeners Road to Southern Cross Drive would deliver significant benefit and have a high benefit cost. Consequently, this project has now been prioritised for immediate development while the other options are further analysed and developed.

On 24 September 2004 the Minster for Roads announced that at this project would be the first project from the above South Sydney Roads package to go ahead.

Scope of Project

The project comprises:

- a northbound off-ramp for traffic exiting Southern Cross Drive into Gardeners Road;
- a southbound on-ramp for traffic from Gardeners Road to Southern Cross Drive;
- relocation a bus stop for west-bound buses on Gardeners Road;
- removal of the existing pedestrian signals at Tunstall Avenue;
- the provision of traffic signals to control vehicle and pedestrian movements at the intersections of both the on and off ramps with Gardeners Road and;
- the closure of one lane of westbound traffic on the Gardeners Road overbridge.

Consideration will also be given to providing traffic calming measures in the West Kingsford precinct, immediately to the north east of the site, to reduce the impact of any additional traffic infiltration resulting from the provision of the new access ramps.

The project will also include relocation of the Light Horse memorial and some adjustment to the bicycle/pedestrian route and the park adjacent to Florence Avenue.

The project will require relocation and adjustment of several major public utility installations, including an Optus installation and a coaxial telephone cable.

Noise modelling is in hand to determine whether there will be any requirements for noise mitigation measures.

The project is currently undergoing further detailed refinement of the concept, including preparation of an environmental impact assessment, utility investigations and a pedestrian movement survey.

The project will contribute greatly to the movement of people and goods across the southern inner city area. It is expected that the impact of these ramps could help alleviate congestion as far afield as Cleveland Street.

The ramps will also service the increase in transport demand anticipated from both the expected developments and growth in the South Sydney area and from the Cross City Tunnel and eases the pressure on access ramps elsewhere on Southern Cross Drive / The Eastern Distributor and by providing a viable alternative for traffic wishing to access the Southern Cross Drive / M5 routes.

Levels of service A and B are predicted for the on and off ramps respectively.

The project has been analysed using EMME/2 network analysis model. Traffic predictions for the am peak for the year 2016 are:

For the southbound (~~off~~) ramp	717 vph
For the northbound (~~on~~) ramp	1162 vph

Economic analysis gave a BCR of 11.

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<<Doc1.doc>>
Ken,
As required. Brief justification of proposed Gardeners Road Ramps.
Regards
Kali Gupta

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