

5.2 ARCHER STREET AND VICTORIA AVENUE, CHATSWOOD – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

ATTACHMENTS:	1. POTENTIAL ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES
WARD:	MIDDLE HARBOUR WARD
AUTHORS: LEADER	GORDON FARRELLY, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT TEAM
CITY STRATEGY LINK:	4.2.2 BALANCE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
MEETING DATE:	16 AUGUST 2017

BACKGROUND:

On 13 July 2017 a crash occurred between a vehicle and a pedestrian at the intersection of Archer Street and Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. The crash occurred during daylight hours. The pedestrian was killed as a result of the crash.

A meeting between Willoughby City Council and NSW Police occurred on Monday 31 July 2017 with the following aims:

- To discuss the recent incident that led to the fatality at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Archer Street, Chatswood
- To discuss potential areas and safety improvement initiatives that Willoughby Council could investigate and, if funding permits, implement.

Council's Road Safety Officer conducts regular "Stepping On" workshops for the elderly community (in conjunction with Roads and Maritime Services and Occupational Therapists). These workshops target the elderly population (in particular the age group of the individual) and discuss pedestrian safety when out walking. These workshops discuss pedestrian islands, refuges, pedestrian fencing, shared paths, signalised intersections, countdown timers and explanations of what they mean and how to use them appropriately. It also discusses unsafe areas to cross and things to avoid (such as crossing by a bend or on a hill). It is also stressed in these workshops to wear visible clothing and highlighted yellow pedestrian bags are handed out to support this. Suggestions also include walking with someone or in a group and if the pedestrian does not feel safe to cross to wait until they do and not to rush.

Council and NSW Police already undertake behavioural campaigns and enforcement of traffic and pedestrian behaviour at intersections to promote safe use.

The location of Archer Street and Victoria Avenue, Chatswood is provided below.

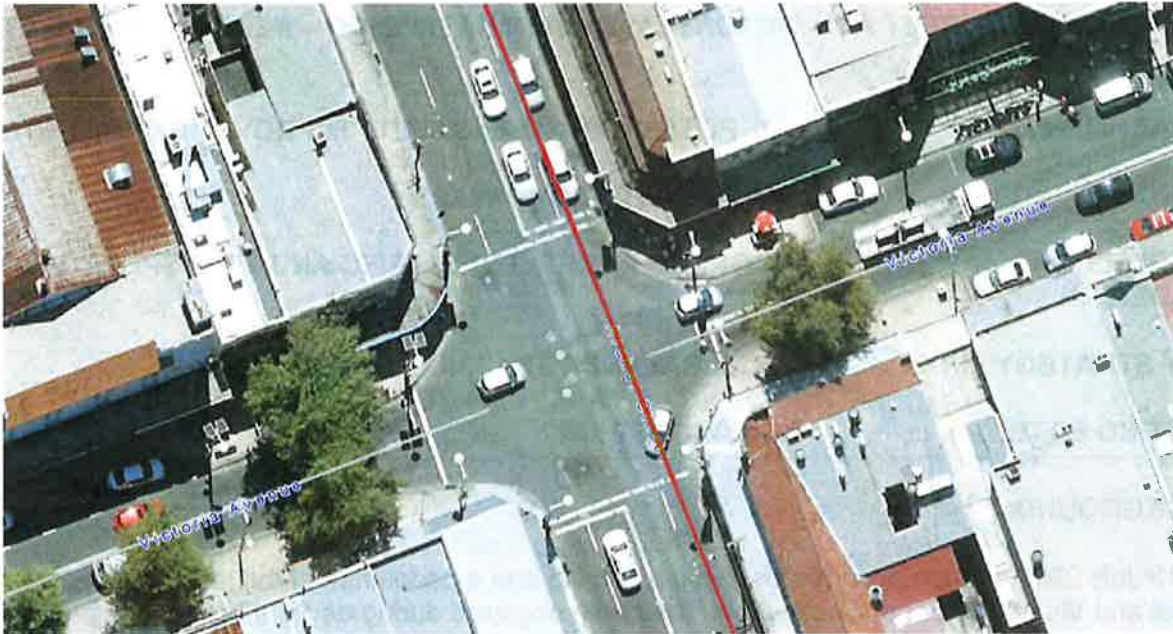


Figure 1: Locality Plan.

DISCUSSION:

It was noted that NSW Police and Roads and Maritime Services are undertaking investigations into the incident.

Council notes that the crash could have been caused by a number of factors such as error of judgement by the pedestrian stepping out without enough time, the driver not scanning for people on the road, possible vision blocked if there were any vehicles in the second lane which obscured the drivers vision and the pedestrian did not have a fast enough pace to walk across the signalised crossing. Council undertook a review of the on-site provision and operation of traffic control signals, infrastructure and facilities as well as the use by pedestrians and drivers.

A number of intervention areas and potential initiatives were identified by Council and NSW Police that could be potential safety improvements at the intersection of Archer Street and Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. The measures are provided in ATTACHMENT A.

Council requests the traffic committee to review the information and provide comments and suggestions to inform the development of potential road safety improvement initiatives for Council for consideration and implementation subject to funding approval, or to be referred to NSW Police and Roads and Maritime Services for their consideration.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

There has been no community consultation.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT:

The Traffic Committee members note the potential road safety improvement initiatives by Willoughby City Council and NSW Police and provide comments and suggestions to inform the development of potential road safety improvement initiatives for Council, or to be referred to NSW Police and Roads and Maritime Services, for consideration.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the information is received and advice from the traffic committee be noted.

ATTACHMENT A: Potential road safety improvement initiatives for the intersection of Archer Street and Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

Area	Initiative	Comments
Data Collection and Analysis	<p>Survey of traffic and pedestrian use of the intersection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three days (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) • 24 hours per day. • All road approaches <p>Analysis to understand identify the problems by road user type and by time of day and day of week</p>	<p>Data collection to obtain an understanding of the use of the intersection, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of traffic and pedestrians using the intersection • Type of road users • Hourly pedestrian flows leaving kerb by traffic signal phases by Walk and Clearance Time • Hourly traffic flows by green phase <p>Analysis to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of illegal use and the type of road user (traffic and pedestrian) undertaking the illegal use • Issues with the use of the intersection i.e. pedestrians using mobile telephones, slow walking resulting in crossing being completed after completion of the clearance time and traffic queuing into the intersection. <p>Analysis would be forwarded to NSW Police for their information and use.</p>
Behavioural methods including awareness and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and distribution of relevant information on-site. • Creation of information in multiple languages to maximise awareness of road safety messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Council's Road Safety Officer is investigating the potential to translate workshops for the CALD community to reach more of the demographic in Willoughby LGA also. • Utilise a person that is bilingual to assist in delivering the information to maximise awareness of road safety messages • Contribute information to NSW Police to use in their community and business forums to maximise awareness of road safety messages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a message that vulnerable road users need to be vigilant when crossing a road even though they may be doing so correctly. • To promote an improved understanding of the operation of the traffic control signal system and how to use it correctly. • Target information to road users identified as not complying with the correct operation of the crossing • Investigate engaging with major shopping centre operators to extend reach of road safety message. <p><i>(It was considered that this approach would be undertaken prior to implementation of enforcement initiatives)</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and distribution of relevant information at Council and NSW Police forums • Undertake targeted enforcement of traffic and pedestrians using the intersection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Council's Road Safety Officer to liaise with the local Police and make arrangements to have Police present at the intersections (Archer/Victoria & Victoria/Anderson) for enforcement & road safety awareness. • Utilise a person that is bilingual to assist in delivering the information to maximise awareness of road safety messages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage correct use of the intersection • Target days and times when illegal use is at its highest.
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake traffic facility and tree maintenance work as outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Have the stop line marking on the easterly side re-stated to enhance the intersection safety. ❖ Have the "LOOK" stencils re-instated on all pedestrian ramps as they have currently faded. ❖ Advise RMS the scrambled crossing sign on the north east side is currently blocked by a "No Right Turn" sign and possibly missing signage and signage arrangements. ❖ Tree branches in Victoria Ave, east of Archer to be trimmed to improve traffic control signal visibility • To review the footpath pavement markings to encourage awareness and safe use of the intersection by pedestrians. • Investigate and, if warranted, seek approval for provision of supplementary '40 High Pedestrian Area' signposting and pavement markings in Archer Street to remind road users that the link is designated as a high pedestrian area with 40 speed zone. 	<p>To ensure the provision and operation of traffic technology, infrastructure and facilities for pedestrians and traffic promote safe use through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being maintained at the appropriate level • Reinforce the existing speed limits and traffic controls • Increase awareness of the need to ensure safe use of the intersection

- Refer suggestion to modify the traffic signals in Council's to Roads and Maritime Services for their consideration:
 - ❖ Traffic control signals display for northbound in Archer – lower to improve driver visibility
- Refer suggestion to introduce a red light/ speed camera to Roads and Maritime Services for their consideration.
- Investigate need for additional traffic facilities and infrastructure speed reduction measures in Archer Street to further encourage traffic to travel at or below 40 km/h and promote correct and safe use of the Victoria Avenue and Archer Street intersection.

