



Transport
Roads & Traffic
Authority

PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PEDESTRIAN FENCING ON MILITARY ROAD BETWEEN COWLES ROAD AND BRADY STREET, MOSMAN

Issues Report

MAY 2011

1. Background

A review of RTA crash data has identified a significant pedestrian safety issue on Military Road, Mosman. In recent years, a number of pedestrians have been injured whilst crossing at mid block locations along Military Road, between Cowles Road and Spit Junction, Mosman.

Over the 5 year period between July 2004 and June 2009, five crashes involving pedestrians were recorded at this location. Each of these crashes resulted in injury to the pedestrian.

To date, the issue of pedestrian safety at this location has been raised with the RTA by the local community, police and Mosman Council.

In 2005, the RTA investigated this section of Military Road to determine potential opportunities for improving pedestrian safety. As part of these investigations, the RTA considered a number of options aimed at deterring pedestrians from crossing at inappropriate locations, including the installation of kerbside fencing and median fencing along Military Road between Cowles Road and Brady Street.

At that time, installing a median fence in front of the Mosman Hotel was not considered a feasible option due to the absence of a central median as well as the narrow width of the existing traffic lanes. Installing kerbside fencing was also considered unfeasible due to the off peak parking in front of the hotel at that time.

In 2009, as part of the Spit/Military roads corridor improvement works, kerbside parking in front of the Mosman Hotel was removed.

2. The proposal

Given the high level of ongoing pedestrian related crashes, the RTA has now revisited this site and undertaken further investigations into pedestrian safety.

As a result of these investigations and in an effort to encourage pedestrians to use the nearest and safest crossing points, the RTA has subsequently developed a proposal to install pedestrian fencing on Military Road, Mosman at the following locations:

- The full length of the central median from the intersection of Cowles Road to 85 metres east of Cowles Road.
- The northern kerb of Military Road from Boronia House to the Brady Street intersection.
- The corner of Brady and Vista streets.

3. Consultation

In November 2010, the RTA undertook a door knock of business operators who could potentially be interested in or affected by this proposal. At that time, verbal and hard copy information regarding the proposal, including details of the scope of the work and the recorded crash history was provided.

A letter drop of information regarding this proposal was also undertaken to capture feedback from the wider community. Approximately 1300 notifications were distributed to local residents/business owners.

As part of the consultation process, the RTA provided contact details for the project manager and invited the community to provide comments.

Feedback was invited over a three week period until 15 December 2010.

4. Issues and Responses

Feedback regarding this proposal was generally positive and overall, indicated a general level of community support for the proposed installation of additional pedestrian fencing along Military Road between Cowles Road and Brady Street, Mosman, on the grounds of improved road safety.

As part of the consultation process, a number of additional issues and concerns were also raised and are documented below.

- **Concerns regarding the adjoining pedestrian crossing facilities.**

Residents indicated concern regarding the 'pedestrian green time' provided at the existing traffic lights/signalised pedestrian crossing on Military Road at the intersection of Spit Road. Community feedback focused on concerns that the current green time is insufficient to enable elderly persons to cross Military Road safely.

As a result, the RTA has reviewed the phasing of the traffic lights/signalised pedestrian crossing and is currently investigating options to determine if further improvements can be made to pedestrian safety at this intersection.

The remaining issues were raised in two separate submissions lodged by two local business owners.

- **Dissatisfaction with the previous RTA 'clearway' project which resulted in the removal of parking on Military Road, in front of the Mosman Hotel.**

The section of Military Road between Cowles Road and Spit Road is critical to maintaining safe and efficient traffic flow along the Spit/Military roads corridor.

The right turn bay on Military Road at the intersection of Spit Road regularly overflows, reducing Military Road to two lanes in the northbound direction. Allowing parking along Military Road between Cowles Road and Brady Street would further reduce the traffic carrying capacity of Military Road to one lane, resulting in an increased and unacceptable level of traffic congestion.

Given the implications associated with reinstating parking at this location are reduced traffic carrying capacity, further impediment to traffic flow and therefore increased traffic congestion, the RTA is not considering reinstating parking in front of Boronia House/Mosman Hotel.

The RTA does not consider kerbside parking at this location a feasible or reasonable option because of its wider implications for commuters.

- **Why does the opposite side of Military Road at the Mosman Hotel have no parking restrictions or proposal for fencing?**

Prior to restricting parking along Military Road at Mosman, the RTA undertook traffic modelling to assess the impact of kerbside parking on congestion. As a result of this modelling, the RTA concluded that a fulltime clearway was only required for the northbound lanes of Military Road between Cowles Road and Spit Junction and parking was restricted accordingly.

The RTA understands that removing parking may have implications for local business access and in this regard, always aims to minimise the removal of existing parking unless that removal is deemed necessary to maintain traffic movement/traffic efficiency.

- **Can new pedestrian crossing traffic signals be installed on Military Road in front of the Mosman Hotel?**

Installing new traffic lights with pedestrian crossing facilities at this location would result in two sets of traffic lights approximately 80 metres apart.

Installing traffic lights at such close proximity does not comply with RTA policy. The RTA has established warrants which must be met prior to project proposals being further developed. These warrants are established to ensure road project proposals give due consideration to maintaining or improving road safety and/or traffic flow. Projects which do not comply with RTA warrants are unlikely to receive approval.

With respect to the installation of a second set of traffic lights at this location, the RTA considers that driver confusion may result because, based on proximity, these additional signals would be clearly visible in the driver's line of sight. Driver confusion poses risks to road user safety. Reduced traffic flow would also be associated with the installation of a second set of lights because signal installation represents an additional disruption to traffic flow.

- **Why are corner fences proposed at the intersection of Vista Street and not at Harbour Street with Military Road?**

The proposed corner fencing at Brady Street and Vista Street are part of an overall strategy to discourage pedestrians from crossing Military Road at inappropriate locations. Given that kerbside fencing is proposed on the opposite side of Military Road across from the Harbour Street intersection, installing corner fencing at Harbour Street is unlikely to contribute any additional benefit to pedestrian safety.

- The main factors behind all the pedestrian crashes are alcohol served to patrons of the Mosman Hotel.

Why are the rest of citizens being penalised with the proposed pedestrian fence?

A recent pedestrian count on Military Road between Brady Street and Cowles Road revealed a significant number of inappropriate midblock pedestrian crossings at this location.

In line with the NSW Government's 'safe system approach,' the RTA is working with Mosman Council to develop and implement a road safety education program for the community.

The aim of the NSW Government's safe system approach is to minimise the number of serious crashes on our road network. This approach incorporates the installation of engineering treatments and education programs designed to address identified road safety issues.

5. Way forward

The RTA has now considered and addressed all of the submissions received and the issues raised regarding the proposed installation of pedestrian fencing on Military Road, Mosman.

It is important to note that in Sydney, approximately one third of fatal crashes involve pedestrians and in this regard, the RTA has been investigating a number of safety measures to improve pedestrian safety on State roads.

In areas with high numbers of pedestrians and a poor crash history at mid-block locations, installing pedestrian fencing has proved to be effective in reducing the number and severity of crashes involving pedestrians.

The RTA has successfully installed pedestrian fences on arterial roads at a number of locations in Sydney. An evaluation of the effectiveness of these fences indicates that 65-75% reduction in the number of crashes involving pedestrians can be achieved.

6. Recommendations

Based on the RTA's: review of community concerns and ideas; knowledge of the risks to pedestrian safety when crossing at uncontrolled mid block locations and recorded crash data indicating an upward trend in the number of pedestrians involved in crashes on Military Road between Cowles Road and Brady Street, Mosman, the RTA has decided to proceed with the installation of pedestrian fencing as proposed.

It is recommended that the RTA prepare an update on this pedestrian safety project advising the community along Military Road, in the vicinity of this site, of the outcomes of the consultation process as well as the expected commencement date for implementation of fencing.