Consultation Report

Romilly Road – Priority Narrowing Removal

Project No: CO19047

A consultation was held on the above scheme proposals between 2nd August 2019– 23rd August 2019, although any correspondence that was received shortly after the deadline was still included as part of this report. The purpose of the consultation was to obtain information from the local community in order to improve the scheme and if possible address any local concerns.

From the approximately 30 properties consulted and 3 site notices displayed on site, 2 individual responses were received, these have been summarised as follows:

- 1 – Object to the proposal
- 1 – Raised comments but did not state whether the support or oppose the proposal

The concerns and comments are summarised as below, along with the Council's response in Italic.

Recommendation

In view of the below it is proposed to proceed with the proposal subject to available funding.

The scheme will remove the existing zebra priority narrowing on Romilly Road and replace it with a built out tabled zebra crossing. This will help reduce vehicles speeds along this route which will improve overall road safety in the area for all road users.

The below are comments received during the consultation period that are against the proposal:

Issue "I broadly support removing narrowings, however this project will increase speeds, make crossing the road more dangerous, and make it more dangerous for vehicles exiting Romilly Place.

“I would like to raise a concern on the proposed Romilly Road narrowing removal. Currently the narrowing acts as a traffic break for all drivers joining the Romilly Road via Romilly Place. This break is extremely helpful especially when having to turn right out of Romilly Place.

The removal of the narrowing would make the joining of Romilly Road trickier to manoeuvre and I suggest this would be taken into consideration”

It is agreed that this existing narrowing currently assists vehicles turning right from Romilly Place onto Romilly Road as they can join at the end of any eastbound traffic through the narrowing, and they effectively have priority over westbound vehicles on Romilly Road. The removal of this priority narrowing will mean that the junction of Romilly Road / Romilly Place will operate as a standard priority junction, consistent with other junctions around the City, in which drivers have to pull out when it is safe to do so.
Currently vehicles on Romilly Road only have to slow down or completely stop when they are confronted with vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. Therefore, when vehicles are travelling through this narrowing if there are no vehicles travelling in the opposite direction then vehicles can continue along this route without reducing their speed. The introduction of physical speed tables will ensure vehicles travelling in both directions will have to reduce their speed regardless of whether there are vehicles travelling in the opposite direction.

It is proposed to build out the south side of the Tabled Zebra Crossing, this will align vehicles travelling westbound away from the kerb edge which will increase visibility of these vehicles to vehicles exiting from Romilly Place. This will also reduce the carriageway width pedestrians have to cross at this location that further increases safety for pedestrians crossing at this location.

Issue – Zebra Crossing Safety

“Removing the narrowing will make this even more dangerous for drivers.

As a regular user of this crossing, I also know this project will make crossing the road more dangerous for walkers.

I have complained to the council and elected politicians several times about safety on other zebra crossings in the area, to no effect.

It is clear to any pedestrian in Cardiff that many drivers ignore zebra crossings.

It is irresponsible of the council to change or alter zebra crossings without consideration of this fact.”

The collision history does not indicate that there is a specific road safety issue at this location. As with all pedestrian crossings, pedestrians should always check that traffic has stopped before you start to cross (Highway Code rule 18), and at zebra crossings “give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross.” (Highway Code Rule 19). It is for the user of the zebra crossing to cross when traffic has stopped and this type of behaviour cannot to control.
Following the recent consultation on a traffic management proposal, the Council is preparing to implement the scheme based on the plan shown. Further details about this consultation are available at cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects using the 'view consultations' link.