

ITEM STCSC1 (1)

SALISBURY TOWN CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE 8 August 2011

HEADING Saints Road Extension Traffic Analysis

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SUMMARY

An initial analysis has been carried out on the viability of extending Saints Road to the Town Centre to increase patronage by improving the accessibility from the east. Traffic modelling has been carried out along with an initial estimate of cost to determine whether the extension of Saints Road should be considered in the immediate future.

BACKGROUND

1. As part of the Salisbury Town Centre Renewal Project Council requested that staff examine the opportunity to extend Saints Road into the Town Centre to increase the traffic volumes to the town centre and hence increase its potential economic vitality.
2. If the strategic modelling identified that the an increase to the Town Centre then Saints Road extension would be included in the local road network modelling of the Salisbury Town Centre and its environs.

REPORT

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

3. Specialist traffic consultants were engaged as part of the Salisbury Town Centre Renewal project and were instructed to model this proposed extension utilising the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure's Strategic Planning model (MASTEM).
4. MASTEM is the forecast tool used by DTEI to analyse the metropolitan network and has been used for the population increases as defined in the States 30 year Plan. It is the most appropriate traffic model to be used in analysing the option of Saints Road extension.
5. The existing MASTEM model has the following base data that is used to predict future traffic scenarios:
 - Current road networks (capacity and attractiveness of use);
 - Land uses (residential and employment lands);
 - Population forecasts;
 - Census data (Journey to work); and
 - Future growth areas.

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6. For the purposes of the modelling it was assumed that Saints Road was extended from its current location to the Salisbury Town Centre along the Little Para River corridor,
7. Slight modifications to the existing MASTEM model were made to more accurately reflect the local conditions and more particularly correlate the predicted traffic volumes with actual patterns and volumes of vehicle movements.
8. A traffic volume assessment was then carried out on the existing and proposed Saints Road extension analysing the morning and afternoon peak periods to determine the potential change in traffic volumes and any other potential change in the use of the network of roads that lead into the Salisbury Town Centre (i.e. Ponton Street, Park Terrace, Commercial Road in particular).
9. The model was run for the years 2011, 2016, 2021 and 2031. This spread of years is typically analysed as part of assessing traffic modelling and growth scenarios and forecasting beyond a 20 year horizon is difficult as the degree of confidence in the modelling reduces significantly.

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS OUTCOMES AND COST ESTIMATE

10. The summary report of the traffic modelling is provided as Attachment A and the conclusions of the report are as follows.
 - The provision of a Saints Road extension does not significantly increase the traffic volumes into the Town Centre.
 - A Saints Road extension would only partially facilitate the current desired destination flow of vehicles coming from Salisbury East / Golden Grove to access the employment lands of Edinburgh Parks and Elizabeth South by transferring some traffic using Park Terrace to using a Saints Road extension.
11. An initial estimate of cost was carried out for the extension of Saints Road. The concept route was considered to continue from the current Saints Road and extend into and along the Little Para Linear Reserve and connect south of the current river crossing at Commercial Road and extending along the Parabanks shopping centre to Gawler Street.
12. It should be noted that the concept alignment is to determine a cost and hence immediate consideration to the economic viability of the extension of Saints Road to improve the Salisbury Town Centre access. No analysis or discussion has been carried out at this stage as to the merits of constructing the road within the Little Para River corridor. It is anticipated that if the extension of Saints Road were viable in increasing the traffic accessibility to the Town Centre then a more detailed examination of the impacts upon the biodiversity and riverine corridor would occur prior to any final consideration.
13. The key elements that were considered in the cost estimate were:
 - A single lane in each direction, with bicycle lane;
 - Two bridge crossings over the Little Para River;
 - One controlled intersection (traffic lights at Commercial Road);

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- Two roundabouts (at Fenden Rd and at Gawler St upgrade); and
- The acquisition of three properties along the Little Para River floodplain area.

14. The estimated cost of the concept is \$18 million.

CONCLUSION

15. The traffic analysis identifies that there is no discernable increase in the traffic volumes accessing the Salisbury Town Centre with an extension of Saints Road to the Town Centre.
16. In an overall network sense there is also no significant improvement to the traffic flow / pattern of vehicles accessing the route for Journey to work purposes or attraction to other key destination points. From this perspective any approach by Council to seek funding for the construction of this road from the State Government would be extremely difficult to justify given the current circumstances.
17. With an estimated cost of some \$18 million dollars for the road it is considered that if Council were to consider how it could best improve the vitality and vibrancy of the Salisbury Town Centre then funding should be focussed on the Salisbury Town Centre proper over the short to medium term (up to 10 years). This strategy of improving the Town Centre vitality would increase its attractiveness as a “point of destination” above other centres.
18. With these investments within the Town Centre and subject to the success of the renewal project it may be considered appropriate that accessibility from Saints Road be reconsidered in some 5 years time after changes to the Town Centre have been brought in to affect.

RECOMMENDATION

1. This information be received.
2. The strategy relating to the Saints Road extension may be reconsidered in 5 years time when the Salisbury Town Centre’s vitality and vibrancy is improved.

CO-ORDINATION

Officer: A/DSP DCP CEO
Date: 01.08.11 03.08.11 04.08.11

This document should be read in conjunction with the Attachment A which is attached at the end of this document in the printed version.