

Old Windsor Road Widening, Bella Vista

Community Consultation Report

Roads and Maritime Services | December 2017



Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime Services consultation with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to widen Old Windsor Road between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road, Bella Vista.

This proposal is part of the NSW Government's \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney's busiest corridors. Widening Old Windsor Road will improve efficiency and safety for all road users and ease congestion during peak periods.

Roads and Maritime invited feedback on the proposal in August and September 2017. We received feedback from 37 people, with 13 supporting the proposal, 15 not stating a preference and nine who did not support the proposal.

Key points identified included:

- suggestions to widen Old Windsor Road from Windsor to Parramatta instead of the current proposal
- other areas of Old Windsor Road are bigger pinch points than the current proposal
- potential noise impact to residents along Old Windsor Road.

The decision

After considering all responses, along with the proposal's aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with proposal unchanged.

We will continue to keep the community and stakeholders informed as the project progresses.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The NSW Government is funding this proposal as part of its \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program, which aims to reduce congestion and improve travel times on Sydney’s busiest corridors.

This section of Old Windsor Road, between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road, currently experiences poor traffic flow in both directions during morning and afternoon peak periods.

The aim of this proposal is to improve the flow of traffic along this corridor by widening the road from two lanes to three in each direction. Extending the southbound right turn bay on Old Windsor Road will also increase the turning bay’s capacity for vehicles turning right, allowing through traffic to continue along the corridor. Cycle connectivity will also be improved by connecting the path to the existing shared path.

1.2. The proposal

Roads and Maritime is proposing to utilise the existing road infrastructure by widening Old Windsor Road, between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road, to three lanes in each direction. The proposal involves:

- widening Old Windsor Road to provide three lanes between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road
- extending the southbound right turn bays on Old Windsor Road
- building a new northbound cycleway connection from Old Windsor Road to a shared path on the T-Way
- removing vegetation from the median.

We have included a map to explain the proposal.

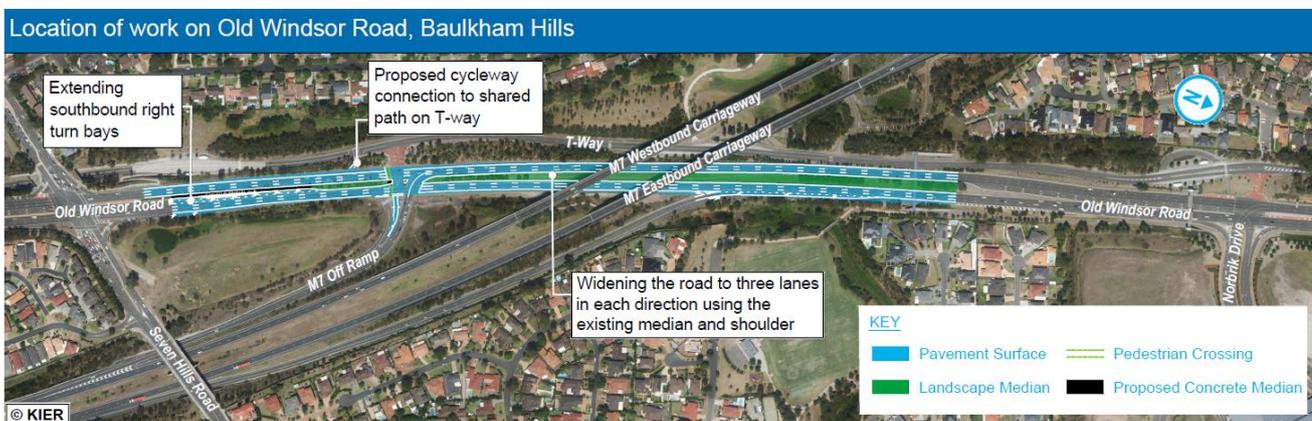


Figure 1 - Project map for Old Windsor Road widening, Bella Vista

2. Consultation approach

2.1. Consultation objectives

We consulted with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal to:

- seek comment, feedback, ideas, and suggestions for us to consider when making a decision
- build a database of interested and concerned community members that we can continue to engage during the proposal's development and delivery.

2.2. How consultation was done

We distributed 2,291 letters (appendix A) to local residents and businesses (appendix B) inviting feedback on the proposal. Copies were also provided to key stakeholders.

An online interactive mapping tool was also used to gather community feedback for this proposal (appendix C).

Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback and make comments via email, mail or phone contact with the project team.

31 comments were pinned to the online map by 22 community members. Two Facebook posts were published to promote the interactive mapping tool on the 'NSW Roads' Facebook page (appendix D).

3. Consultation summary

3.1. Overview

We received feedback from 37 people, with 13 supporting the proposal, 15 not stating a preference and nine who did not support the proposal.

Key points identified included:

- suggestions to widen Old Windsor Road from Windsor to Parramatta instead of the current proposal
- other areas of Old Windsor Road are bigger pinch points than the current proposal
- potential noise impact to residents along Old Windsor Road.

After considering all responses, along with the proposal's aims and design requirements, we have decided to proceed with proposal unchanged.

3.2. Social media

Two Facebook posts were published to promote the interactive mapping tool on the NSW Roads Facebook page. The two Facebook posts reached a total of 308,692 people, with 543 reactions, comments and shares. 22 people clicked through to the interactive map and pinned their feedback, this feedback was considered in preparing this report and developing the proposal. A total of 154 comments were left under both posts, these comments were not considered in preparing this report or developing the proposal.

3.3. Feedback and Roads and Maritime's responses

Roads and Maritime has provided responses to all feedback received on this proposal. The responses are provided directly to the person who commented, as well as in this report, which will be made available to the public.

All comments have been considered to help Roads and Maritime make decisions on this proposal. Matters raised during consultation that are not within Roads and Maritime's area of responsibility have been forwarded to the relevant authority.

Table 1 - Feedback summary and Roads and Maritime's responses

Category	Number of comments	Matter raised	Roads and Maritime's response
Future Planning	Seven	Residential development is not being considered in this proposal.	<p>The purpose of this project is to reduce congestion and improve travel times in the area.</p> <p>Traffic modelling carried out during the planning phase of this project took average growth rates into consideration until 2026.</p>
Proposal	Five	This proposal won't improve traffic conditions.	<p>Widening both carriageways to three lanes between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road at Bella Vista will improve traffic flow, capacity and safety by reducing the need for traffic to change lanes.</p> <p>The extension of the right turn bay on Old Windsor Road will increase the turning bay's capacity for vehicles turning right, allowing through traffic to continue along the corridor.</p>
Environment	Eight	Will any vegetation be re-planted upon completion of this project?	There is no planned landscaping or re-planting as part of the proposal. It is not proposed to replant vegetation within the median as this could potentially introduce a crash hazard within the narrowed median. The existing median vegetation would be replaced with a grassed median.
		Existing drainage on the northbound carriageway of Old Windsor Road below the M7 isn't sufficient as it occasionally floods.	As part of this project the existing drainage system will be upgraded at this location to reduce incidents of flooding.
		Will the road widening bring traffic closer to residential homes?	The proposal would utilise part of the existing road shoulder and median to accommodate the third lane in each direction. The alignment of the road corridor does not change. An assessment of operational noise has confirmed that the proposal would not increase road traffic noise by more than two decibels and therefore would not have a noticeable impact on road traffic noise once operational.

Category	Number of comments	Matter raised	Roads and Maritime's response
		Traffic travelling on Old Windsor Road is very noisy. Will using a particular road surface finish reduce the noise created by daily traffic?	<p>In some circumstances, the type of road pavement selection can achieve a slight reduction in traffic noise. Such pavement was considered during the design development for this proposal however was not found to be suitable for this road environment due to considerations such as the grade of the road and posted speed.</p> <p>Existing road traffic noise on State and Federal roads in NSW is also separately addressed through the Roads and Maritime Noise Abatement Program. More information on this program can be located at http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/reducing-noise/index.html".</p>
		How will noise be managed for local residents backing onto Old Windsor Road? Will it get noisier if the road has more traffic travelling along it with the road widening?	<p>Construction noise will be managed as part of the construction management plan.</p> <p>An assessment of operational noise has confirmed that the proposal would not increase road traffic noise by more than two decibels and therefore would not have a noticeable impact on road traffic noise once operational.</p>
Congestion	Two	This proposal is a good idea but putting a T2 or T3 lane in upon completion will help reduce congestion even more.	<p>Roads and Maritime is currently not considering an expansion of the Transit Lane network. Effective Transit Lane operation requires the network to have a high frequency public transport service along the route and a high occurrence of multi-occupant vehicles. Enforcement infrastructure and resources are also required.</p> <p>The network adjacent to Old Windsor Road has the North West T-Way and the traffic conditions are anticipated to change with the opening of Sydney Metro Northwest in 2019.</p>
		The new Metro train line will increase traffic in the area resulting in more congestion. Has this been considered?	The aim of the new Metro line will aid in reducing congestion with more community members using public transport. However the overall traffic growth rates are still expected to rise as development continues along this corridor.

Category	Number of comments	Matter raised	Roads and Maritime's response
		Merging traffic from Old Windsor Road to the M7 is unsafe due to driver behaviour.	As part of this proposal we are adding a third through lane. This eliminates the need for drivers to merge back onto Old Windsor Road. The M7 will have a dedicated slip lane.
Traffic Lights	Seven	There are too many sets of traffic lights on Old Windsor Road. They are poorly timed and this proposal will only worsen the congestion on Old Windsor Road.	<p>This project is not expected to affect traffic light phasing in the area.</p> <p>Old Windsor Road/Seven Hills Rd, Old Windsor Road /M7 off-ramp and Old Windsor Road /Norbrik Drive are linked by SCATS (Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System) synchronised traffic signals.</p> <p>Traffic lights in NSW are controlled by the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), which allocates the length of green time based on real time traffic flow. Sensors beneath the road measure the flow and density of traffic approaching the lights in each direction and the green time is allocated accordingly. The length of time the light stays green varies in response to changing traffic conditions. This ensures that the traffic light phasing is operating at maximum efficiency.</p>
Out of scope	30	Old Windsor Road should be widened to three lanes in each direction from Windsor to Parramatta.	<p>This proposal involves widening the section of Old Windsor Road, between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road. Further widening of Old Windsor Road is outside the scope of this proposal.</p> <p>We will take your feedback on board for consideration in future projects. Your comments have been forwarded to the Network Sydney team at Roads Maritime who investigate congestion improvements along this corridor.</p>
		The exit lanes from Old Windsor Road into Norwest Boulevard should be widened to three lanes will reduce congestion on Old Windsor Road.	
		The intersection of Warooga Avenue at Seven Hills Road is unsafe for residents who need to turn right.	

Category	Number of comments	Matter raised	Roads and Maritime's response
		The intersection of Windsor Road and Celebration Drive is more of a pinch point than the proposed upgrade.	
		This proposal won't improve anything; you should build an underpass instead.	
		The congestion occurs mainly at Old Windsor Road and Caroline Chisholm Drive/Powers Road.	
		Lengthen the right turn bays into Sunnyholt Road and Samantha Riley Drive, this will help congestion.	
		This proposal would create another bottleneck when Old Windsor Road returns back to two lanes.	
		Please complete the footpath along Seven Hills Road from Old Windsor Road to Bingara Crescent.	

Category	Number of comments	Matter raised	Roads and Maritime's response
		Wait for the Sydney Metro to be completed before going ahead with this proposal. Encouraging public transport use will reduce the number of cars on the road.	<p>Traffic studies were completed for up to 2026 as part of this design. The Metro was considered as part of this proposal.</p> <p>This project is creating an integrated transport system that accounts for all road users. As part of the design for this project traffic studies were completed up to 2026 and this improvement is still considered necessary to improve congestion on this corridor.</p>
		Extending southbound right turn lanes from Old Windsor Road into Seven Hills Road may worsen traffic here. The right turn into Joseph Banks Drive from Seven Hills Road is poorly timed and the lane usually completely banks up, creating a further build up off traffic.	<p>The extension of the right turn lane beyond the through lane queue length and the additional storage for right turning traffic into Seven Hills Road will reduce the potential for rear end crashes caused by right turning vehicles queuing into the through lanes.</p> <p>The Joseph Banks Drive, Seven Hills Road intersection is being separately investigated for potential improvements. In the meantime, the timing of the traffic signals will be reviewed to reduce the impact of the westbound queuing on Seven Hills Rd at Joseph Banks Drive.</p>
		Your proposal will not alleviate the congestion at the intersection of Abbott Road and Old Windsor Road where Old Windsor Road narrows to two lanes heading south travelling through Winston Hills.	Intersections north and south of the proposed widening are out of scope for this proposal, although, Roads and Maritime will be undertaking investigation works to identify the improvements that will be required to enhance the performance of this corridor between Constitution Hill and Seven Hills.
		Turning right off Old Windsor Road onto Norwest Boulevard for north bound traffic is a long and tedious process taking a minimum of six or seven light changes to get through the intersection in peak hour.	The proposal involves widening the section of Old Windsor Road between Norbrik Drive and Seven Hills Road. Further widening of Old Windsor Road is outside the scope of this proposal. We will take your feedback on board and consider this for future projects.

4. Decision

We thank everyone who provided comments and the community and stakeholders for considering the proposal.

After reviewing the feedback, we have decided to proceed with the proposal unchanged.

5. Next steps

We have considered all submissions and will ensure our team is aware of concerns raised by the community. We will ensure that issues highlighted by stakeholders and the community are appropriately addressed throughout the delivery of the project.

We will continue to keep the community informed of the project progress.



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