



MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 24 February 2020

RE: Bring Back the Roundabout

It's been two and a half years since Council undertook work on the intersection between Young Street and Grasmere Road as part of the 'Route 2 Cycleway and Streetscape Upgrade' project but unfortunately, we still haven't achieved an outcome that works for the community.

The Route 2 Cycleway is an important part of creating the missing links in our cycle network but I'm not even sure that cyclists are happy with the result.

In fact, I'm aware of a cyclist that has written to Council, asking us to clarify who has right of way when a bike rider (in a bike lane) faces a give way sign and at the same time in an adjacent lane, a driver faces a stop sign.

This is only one part of the problem. Council has received numerous complaints on the subject matter regularly since the project began including:

- changes to traffic conditions such as the inconsistency in stop signs. It is confusing for motorists driving down Young Street who have right of way at Sutherland Street but then must give way at Grasmere Road;
- drivers not obeying the new stop signs;
- concerns about significant increases in vehicle speed since the roundabout was removed;
- the removal of the pedestrian safety islands that has made it more difficult for pedestrians to cross Grasmere Road and Young Street at the intersection;
- increased pressure on availability of on street parking; and
- that cyclists are not using the cycleway but are still using the car lane.

Council undertook a review of the intersection in 2018 after a number of residents raised their concerns. The result was installing speed cushions last year; however this has not stopped complaints and in some respects has only exasperated the problem.

It is time to finalise this matter and, if possible, reinstate the roundabout.

Finding a way to reinstate the roundabout to its former position may need a little adjustment but it will alleviate all the problems currently being experienced at that intersection. I would like to see Council pursue installing a flat-top roundabout, like the one on Alexander Street, which would allow buses to go over it.

My role as Mayor is to listen to the community and make sure their concerns are heard by Council. The residents do not feel that they have been heard on this matter and they do not feel that they have been considered during any part of the process of delivering this project.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council staff prepare a report to identify the costs associated with reinstating the roundabout with a flat top like the one on Alexander Street and identify a funding source.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**