

Charles Street Road Closure

Strategic Alignment - Our Places

Public

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee

Program Contact:

Mark Goudge, Associate Director Infrastructure

Approving Officer:

Tom McCready, Director City Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Charles Street, between Rundle Mall and North Terrace, is a key laneway in the Rundle Mall precinct requiring a full streetscape upgrade to replace aged assets, improve pedestrian safety, enhance the public realm and improve the retail experience for customers and retailers.

Due to its proximity to the cultural precinct on North Terrace and internal linkages with other arcades, Charles Street offers a significant opportunity to reinvigorate the north-eastern portion of the Rundle Mall Precinct.

Closing Charles Street to vehicular traffic will enable Council to create a high-quality, safe and un-cluttered street, that complements the Rundle Mall precinct.

Access for removalists, service vehicles (including waste, property owners which back onto Charles Place) etc. will be available through the Rundle Mall permit scheme and as agreed with property owners and retailers within Charles Street and Charles Place.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 26 March 2024 for consideration

THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL:

THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves in accordance with Section 32 of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*, the closure of the road known as Charles Street, Adelaide ('the Road'), between Rundle Mall and North Terrace to all motor vehicles other than the following vehicles which are to be exempted from the closure:
 - 1.1. Vehicles which have permission from the Adelaide Economic Development Agency (AEDA) in their role as managers of the Rundle Mall Precinct, officers or employees of the City of Adelaide and identified utility and service vehicles.
 - 1.2. Emergency vehicles including SA Police, SA Ambulance Service and Metropolitan Fire Service.
 - 1.3. Vehicles driven by employees of the City of Adelaide during the course of their work.
2. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer or delegate to cause notice of the closure to be:
 - 2.1. Published in 'The Advertiser.'
 - 2.2. Provided by post to each ratepayer of land immediately abutting the portion of the Road, the subject of the closure.
 - 2.3. Published on the City of Adelaide's website.
 - 2.4. Made available at the City of Adelaide's Customer Centre, Libraries and Community Centres.
3. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer or delegate to, after observing any relevant requirements of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*, cause to be erected, installed, operated maintained and removed, on behalf of Council, any traffic control device necessary to give effect to the closure.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<i>Strategic Alignment – Our Places</i>
Policy	The review of traffic and parking for safety and amenity aligns with the Smart Move Transport and Movement Strategy for Calm Traffic.
Consultation	Consultation has been undertaken with affected stakeholders including emergency services, in accordance with City of Adelaide's (CoA) Public Consultation Policy and s32 of the <i>Road Traffic Act 1961</i> .
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Council has a responsibility to monitor and improve road safety by taking measures to protect its area from hazards, and to mitigate the effects of such hazards within the city.
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	The item that is the subject of this report is currently unfunded. Any required funding for this item is subject to, and needs to be considered in the context of, the prioritisation of projects, initiatives and service enhancements for the development of the 2024/25 budget, and within the parameters of the LTFP to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Ongoing Maintenance Cost to retractable bollards per annum approximately \$1,500, asset renewal every 10 years.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. Charles Street is an important pedestrian link between Rundle Mall and the cultural precinct of North Terrace. As the infrastructure has reached end of life, this is an opportune time to close the road and upgrade the street to provide:
 - 1.1. Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant paths.
 - 1.2. Restrict and control vehicle movement to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and motorists undertaking multiple point turns in a narrow street.
 - 1.3. Increase opportunities for retail, outdoor dining, events, etc.
2. The closure would assist in creating a safer, more pedestrian friendly environment and address concerns regarding road safety to align with the future streetscape upgrade of Charles Street.
3. There are no existing parking spaces in Charles Street, however access to parking spaces in Charles Place, a private road that runs east of Charles Street, will still be accessible to those authorised.

Summary of consultation approach

4. Consultation was undertaken between 23 October 2023 and 24 November 2023 in accordance with the City of Adelaide's (CoA) Public Consultation Policy and the *Road Traffic Act 1961*. It included the following actions:
 - 4.1. A letter was circulated to 117 affected stakeholders (property owners and occupiers).
 - 4.2. Consultation packs and feedback forms were made available on the 'YourSay' website and through CoA libraries and community centres.
 - 4.3. Consultation packs and feedback forms were sent to SA Police, SA Ambulance Service and SA Metropolitan Fire Service.
5. Council Members were notified via E-News on 20 October 2023 of the public consultation process.

Results of consultation

6. The below summarises the feedback received during the consultation:
 - 6.1 Of the 65 responses received, 59 stakeholders supported the proposal. The objections were predominately regarding drop off/pick up and parking of removalist vehicles for Martin Towers. It should be noted that of the 59 supports received, nine also were concerned with drop off/pick up, service vehicles and removalists not having anywhere to park. Verbatim comments can be found here ([Link 1](#)).
 - 6.2 Currently within Charles Street there is no parking within the street, albeit vehicles do occasionally stop or park on the siding to allow vehicles to pass one another to exit from Charles Street. Access for removalists, service vehicles (including waste, property owners which back onto Charles Place) etc. will be available through the Rundle Mall permit scheme and as agreed with property owners and retailers within Charles Street and Charles Place. This would in affect provide better controls to who has access to this section of the Rundle Mall Precinct and discourage casual or illegal parking.
 - 6.3 This proposal was forwarded to SA Police, SA Ambulance Service and Metropolitan Fire Service. No response was received from the three emergency service providers, although SAMFS has been consulted about the new streetscape design. Emergency Services vehicles will have their current access maintained in line with the Rundle Mall permit scheme.

Next steps

7. Following approval, the following will be undertaken:
 - 7.1 A letter advising of Council's decision will be sent to affected stakeholders.
 - 7.2 Notice of the closure published in The Advertiser and on the 'Your Say' website.
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DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Charles Street verbatim comments

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -