

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

24 AUGUST 2000

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES IN MONTROSE

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report examines the need for formal pedestrian crossing facilities at three locations within Montrose Town Centre.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the committee agree:

- (i) to the provision of a Puffin crossing in High Street, Montrose adjacent to the Town House;
- (ii) to the provision of a Zebra crossing in Castle Place adjacent to Montrose Library;
- (iii) to take no action regarding the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing in George Street, Montrose

2 INTRODUCTION

Report number 285/00 'Montrose High Street – Traffic Flows' was approved by Committee on 9 March, 2000. It considered the traffic flows through the centre of Montrose since the completion of the Inner Relief Road and the Town Centre Environmental Improvements, and it was agreed that the Director of Roads should continue to monitor the traffic flows.

In addition, discussions have been ongoing with various parties as part of the development of the Montrose Area Local Community Plan. One of the main issues raised by the local members, Community Council, shopkeepers, Access Panel, individuals etc has been the issue of pedestrian crossing facilities along the High Street.

This report considers how further priority can be given to pedestrians, and pedestrian safety improved.

3 DETAILS

The main issues relative to pedestrians raised through discussions on the Local Community Plan were the difficulties which pedestrians were experiencing in crossing the High Street at the Town House, and Castle Place at the Library, and to a lesser extent crossing at the top of George Street.

Pedestrian and vehicle counts were carried out at the three sites during July this year and each site has been assessed in accordance with the current criteria.

- **High Street at the Town House**

There were 5 'damage only' accidents and 1 slight injury accident within the vicinity of the Town House between November 1996 and July 1999. One of these involved pedestrians.

The average vehicle and pedestrian flows over the worst four conflict hours were 649 vehicles and 137 pedestrians per hour. The number of vehicles and pedestrians suggests that some form of pedestrian crossing facility should be provided at this point. Many of the pedestrians are either elderly or under the age of 16. Prior to the Environmental Improvements there was a Pelican crossing at this location and the Access Panel would like to see a formal crossing restored here. The Town House is presently under renovation and will accommodate Housing and Social Work offices which will further increase the pedestrian demand.

Ideally, traffic management measures should be introduced to further reduce the traffic volumes along the High Street, but there are concerns meantime that this might affect the economic viability of the Town Centre. It is therefore proposed to introduce a Puffin Crossing, as shown on Plan 1.

- **Castle Place at Library**

There have been two damage only accidents at this location between August 1996 and July 1999. Neither of these involved pedestrians.

The average vehicle and pedestrian flows over the worst four conflict hours were 469 vehicles and 117 pedestrians per hour. The number of vehicles and pedestrians would again suggest that some form of pedestrian facility should be provided at this point but the numbers here are insufficient to justify a Puffin crossing. It is therefore proposed to install a Zebra crossing, which would also give greater priority to pedestrians, as shown on Plan 2. The provision of the crossing at this point will require an adjustment to the parking and the loss of 7 spaces.

- **George Street**

There have been two damage only accidents in proximity to this locus between August 1996 and July 1999. Neither of these involved pedestrians.

The average vehicle and pedestrian flows over the worst four conflict hours were 318 vehicles and 120 pedestrians per hour. There is a relatively low number of vehicles using this section of carriageway compared with the other two sites in this report. Pedestrians are therefore given a greater chance to cross between vehicles. Pedestrians will also benefit from the effect of the proposed crossing at Castle Place. It is recommended therefore that no action be taken at this site.

4 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of providing the Puffin crossing in High Street, adjacent to the Town House is £20,000.

The estimated cost of providing a Zebra crossing in Castle Place adjacent to the library is £10,000.

The total cost for both sites is therefore £30,000. The postponement of the planned improvement to the B9128/C51 junction at Hillend discussed and agreed earlier on the agenda for this meeting (Report No 905/00 refers) has freed up £45,000 which was previously allocated in the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair Fund for that scheme. This, together with minor slippage in the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair Fund programme of junction improvements, will allow these proposals to be contained within the funding allocated to Traffic and Road Safety Projects in the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair Fund for the current financial year.

5 **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, The Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Chief Constable have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 **CONCLUSION**

It is proposed that controlled pedestrian crossings should be provided in Montrose in High Street adjacent to the Town House and in Castle Place adjacent to the library. Due to the limited number of vehicles and pedestrians crossing George Street no controlled crossing should be provided at this locus. These measures will help to improve pedestrian safety and also to discourage through traffic along the High Street.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

Report Number: 1025/99 - Montrose Town Centre – Angus Council Roads Committee- 14 October, 1999

Report Number: 285/00- Montrose High Street - Traffic Flows – Angus Council Roads Committee - 9 March 2000

RS/JSG

28 July 2000
REPORTS/ped.cross.montrose