

ENCL: 1ST ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING/CONF
YES

AGENDA ITEM: C28.1.2

BARNESON BOULEVARD - UPDATE

REPORT No.: 16TS0072 LC:jg

COMMON No.: 2116605

DATE: 12/04/2016

Presenter: General Manager Infrastructure, Luccio Cercarelli

Approved: Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Dowd

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Barneson Boulevard project.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the 'Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan':-

Goal

2 Vibrant, Flexible and Tropical Lifestyle

Outcome

2.2 A sense of place and community

Key Strategies

2.2.1 Develop a vibrant and active central business district

KEY ISSUES

- The Darwin City Centre Master Plan proposes Barneson Boulevard be developed as an 'urban boulevard' which provides a transport link and creation of an urban streetscape.
- The City of Darwin in partnership with the NT Government Department of Transport were unsuccessful in a National Stronger Regions Fund grant application for \$10 million in 2015.
- The Department of Transport in partnership with the City of Darwin has sought funding to the value of \$29.53 million from the Australian Government supported by \$5 million each from the Department of Transport and City of Darwin to deliver the project.
- Design and documentation of the project is currently being undertaken by the Department of Transport.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Report Number 16TS0072 LC:jg entitled Barneson Boulevard - Update, be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council endorse that the existing provision of \$5 million in the Long Term Financial Plan for the delivery of Barneson Boulevard be utilised to match and support the Department of Transport's Australian Government funding application to deliver Barneson Boulevard.

BACKGROUND

Barneson Boulevard has been identified as a strategic transport link in the Darwin City Centre Master Plan. The Master Plan proposes Barneson Boulevard to be developed as an 'urban boulevard', which provides a transport link for vehicles and also supports pedestrians and cyclists, and encourages walking and cycling. The Master Plan concept for Barneson Boulevard includes appropriate landscaping and creation of an urban streetscape. A draft concept plan is contained in **Attachment A** to this report.

On 21 March 2014, Government approved an additional \$1 million in Department of Transport's 2014-15 budget to undertake investigation and design of key Darwin City Centre Master Plan concepts. Currently, Department of Transport is managing the detailed design of the Barneson Boulevard project in collaboration with City of Darwin and an adjacent major development being undertaken by Mr Frank Morandini. A design consultancy has been awarded to a local firm, Jacobs, and concept design work and community consultation is underway. As the design progresses Council will be updated and consulted with.

The cost estimate to construct Barneson Boulevard is \$20 million. City of Darwin, in partnership with the NT Government Department of Transport, made a funding application to the National Stronger Regions Fund to secure \$10 million of Australian Government funding to construct Barneson Boulevard, based on a consortium funding arrangement as below:

City of Darwin Contribution	\$5 million
Northern Territory Government Contribution	\$5 million
National Stronger Regions Funding sought	\$10 million
Total Project Cost	\$20 million

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has made a provision of \$5 million towards the delivery of the Barneson Boulevard project.

In December 2015, Council was advised that its application to the National Stronger Regions Fund was unsuccessful.

17.1 National Stronger Regions Fund Round Two Outcomes
Document No. 3283104 (07/12/15) Common No. 2116605

(Knox/Worden)

THAT the incoming letter from Regional Programmes – Infrastructure Investment Division regarding the National Stronger Regions Fund Round Two Outcomes, dated 7 December 2015, Document Number 3283104, be received and noted.

DECISION NO.21\4012 (08/12/15)

This report provides Council with an update on the project.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Transport (DoT) in collaboration with City of Darwin are progressing the design and documentation relating to Barneson Boulevard and the next stage of Tiger Brennan Drive duplication from Dinah Beach Road to McMinn Street. The estimated cost of both projects is \$39.53 million.

The project is currently at an advanced concept stage which is expected to be completed in May 2016. This will be followed by the detail design and documentation stage which is expected to be completed in mid 2016.

The timing of construction will be dependent on available funding.

DoT has submitted applications to the Australian Government under the Infrastructure Investment Programme and the Northern Australia Roads Programme to secure \$10 million for Barneson Boulevard and \$19.53 million for the last stage of Tiger Brennan Drive duplication from Dinah Beach Road to McMinn Street.

The proposed funding arrangements within these applications are as follows:

Barneson Boulevard

Funding mix remains unchanged to that of Council's National Stronger Regions Fund application being:

City of Darwin Contribution	\$5 million
Northern Territory Government Contribution	\$5 million
Australian Government Contribution	\$10 million
Total Project Cost	\$20 million

Last Stage Tiger Brennan Duplication

The total project cost of \$19.53 million is being sought from the Australian Government by DoT.

The City of Darwin has provided the DoT with a letter strongly supporting their funding application and identify that Council has committed \$5 million towards the construction of Barneson Boulevard.

The outcome of the DoT funding submission is expected in the first half of 2016.

The Barneson Boulevard Project and aforementioned funding applications have been on the agenda and discussed at the Northern Australia Capital City Committee.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following External Parties were consulted:

- Department of Transport (DoT)

DoT is managing the design and documentation process including consultation with stakeholders. Information can be found on their website www.transport.nt.gov.au/ntroads/projects/barneson-boulevard.

As the concept designs progress a presentation will be made to the Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No policy implications have been identified at this stage.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The estimate cost of Barneson Boulevard is \$20 million.

The estimate cost of the last stage of the Tiger Brennan duplication from Dinah Beach Road to McMinn Street is \$19.53 million.

Council's the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) includes \$5 million in 2018/2019 towards the delivery of Barneson Boulevard.

The Northern Territory Government has already committed \$5 million towards the projects, however the Government's level of funding could increase reducing Council's contribution.

DoT is seeking \$29.53 million from the Australian Government.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If DoT is successful in their funding application the City of Darwin would enter into a legally binding funding agreement.

The ownership of the Boulevard remains unresolved and will form part of ongoing discussions.

This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act and 8(c)(iv) of the Local Government Administration Regulations, whereby the public may be excluded while business of a kind classified as information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person is discussed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Barneson Boulevard has the potential to set the standards for modern urban centre road design. The concept includes provision for wide foot and cycle paths, a significant median to leverage excellent urban design as well as (in certain areas) wider footpaths where social gatherings, such as alfresco dining are imagined. The Barneson Boulevard proposal provides a multi-modal transport solution. As well as providing a more direct link into the CBD for cars and cyclists, it is envisaged the corridor would also be shared by public transport services in the future.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

LUCCIO CERCARELLI
GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE

BRENDAN DOWD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For enquiries, please contact Luccio Cercarelli on 8930 0581 or email: l.cercarelli@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Draft Concept Plan.