

Case Study

Centennial Park Children's Pedestrian Crossing



Background

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust has been seeking to modify behaviour which causes safety issues on the Grand Drive for many years.

Statistics the Trust has collated over the past two years highlight why the Trust is concerned about the issue of safety on Grand Drive. Some of the following statistics, relevant for the period from January 2010 to December 2011, are noted below:

- There were 61 reported accidents/incidents, of which 20 required the attendance of an ambulance
- There were 45 complaints about cyclist behaviour reported to the Trust.

It should be noted that these are 'reported' statistics only. There is much that occurs and goes unreported to the Trust, so these are a minimum number of issues that have arisen.

A further breakdown of the 61 reported incidents follows:

- Cyclist accidents (cyclist alone): 17
- Cyclist accident with car: 7
- Cyclist accident with pedestrian: 7
- Cyclist accident with cyclist: 8
- Car accident with cyclist: 22

A further breakdown of the 45 official complaints follows:

- Complaints about cyclist speed: 10
- Complaints about cyclist 'bunch' behaviour: 31
- Complaints about cars by cyclists: 4



Challenge

Following extensive research, planning and consultation, The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust sought to implement the Grand Drive Safety Improvement Program. The aim was to target what are considered to be safety black-spots around Grand Drive.

The focus of the first stage of this project was a safety-upgrade along Grand Drive, adjacent the Children's Learners Cycleway. This area is a key safety concern as it brings together a large number of social and environmental challenges. In particular, a high proportion of young children.

Successive attempts at education, awareness and regulation have not resolved many of the safety issues in this area, so we are looking at a more direct approach to improving safety.



Solution

Having consulted with local communities and groups, Stuart Dutton (Centennial Parklands Director of Asset Management) approached Inventis Technology (a Sydney based safety technology manufacturer) about their SAFEZONE PANDA Solar Powered Wireless Pedestrian and Driver Alert System. Along with the line markings and safety warning signs, the solar powered SAFEZONE PANDA System with large flashing LED lights, not only provides advanced warning to motorists and cyclists but also keeps in tune with the Parklands' environmental commitment in minimising its carbon footprint. The lights (pre-set by way of an electronic timer) will flash continuously during the crossing's operational times which are between 9:00am and 4:30pm, seven days a week.



Benefit

During the consultation and communication process, it was agreed by all parties that 'safety is not-negotiable' especially when it came to the children's crossing.

Dutton says, "Since we installed the children's crossing along with the SAFEZONE PANDA System about six weeks ago, we are extremely pleased to report that there have been no reported accidents or incidents involving motorists, cyclists or pedestrians. Although motorists and cyclists must now slow right down at the crossing, we feel that it is a small sacrifice to make to ensure pedestrian safety."

Being far more visible, the crossing, adjacent to the Children's Learners Cycleway now provides a very safe opportunity for pedestrians (especially those with children) to cross Grand Drive in safety.





PANDA SYSTEM OVERVIEW

A low cost, wireless solution for enhancing pedestrian and driver safety

The **PANDA (Pedestrian And Driver Alert) System** is an Australian developed 'active advance visual warning system' that uses wirelessly controlled flashing lights to deliver more effective warnings in locations where pedestrians and road vehicles interact. By combining flashing road-side warning lights with optional in-road warning lights, this system has been shown to deliver more effective warnings than passive (unlit) signs, or road-side lights on their own.

Designed for pedestrian crossings, carpark exits and other 'black spots' where drivers and/or pedestrians need more visible warnings in advance for them to change their behaviour (i.e. slow down and stop), **PANDA** helps in delivering improved response times for drivers and pedestrians to avoid danger, helping to reduce the risk of accidents and near misses.

What makes **PANDA** unique, is that it's a simple, modular, wireless solution that can be easily adapted to almost any application and location. A range of activation options (automated or manual), and a total absence of power and external control cabling means it can be far more quickly deployed and for a lot less cost, than other hard-wired active warning systems.

While road-side and in-pavement flashing lights are not unique, the combination of a secure wireless control system with high output LED lighting in modular housings that can be easily applied to new or existing applications, makes **PANDA** a highly flexible and easily applied solution. It also makes **PANDA** incredibly affordable.



PANDA

'Pedestrian & Driver Alert' System



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