

13. ROAD SAFETY ISSUES - MARSHLAND ROAD

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The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal to address road safety issues along the frontages of Marshland Road south of Prestons Road.

The frontage in the vicinity of 410 Marshland Road is of particular concern. Discussions have been held with the owners of the property. In accordance with a recent crash reduction study no stopping restrictions, cycle lanes and a flush median are proposed. The installation of kerb and channel was also proposed in the crash reduction study. This is suggested as a future project for funding through the Capital Works budget.

This report will also be presented to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee.

BACKGROUND

The road safety record of Marshland Road south of the Prestons Road roundabout is poor. The main issue resulting in crashes is vehicle turning and parking associated with roadside stalls in the area. The problems have recently been exacerbated by the sealing of the water table, resealing of the footpath and the sealing of the large area within the property frontage of 410 Marshland Road. As a result of this increased sealed area additional angle parking is now occurring along the road frontage of 410 Marshland Road. This angle parking combined with a revised off-street parking area is causing a significant increase in the number of vehicle conflicts. The Council has received complaints regarding road safety in this area.

In February 2001 a crash reduction study was completed along Marshland Road. The length south of the Prestons Road roundabout was identified as a location for treatment. The study noted that six people had been injured in reported crashes in the area over the previous five years. In addition nine non-injury crashes were reported.

The crash reduction study identified a \$200,000 project to address the issues causing concern. The project, which is anticipated to have a Benefit/Cost ratio of around 5, has not been specifically included in the Council's five-year budget. It may be able to be programmed in the current budget round.

The owners of the property at 410 Marshland Road have been supportive of making changes on their property to provide sufficient off-street car parking for their use. The owners have offered to complete this work by the end of November. The support shown for improving road safety in the area is very much appreciated.

The speed limit along the rural section of Marshland Road is currently 80 km/h. The possibility of lowering the limit on some sections will be considered as part of a planned review of all speed restrictions within the City.

DISCUSSION

There is an urgent need to address the increasing road safety problems in Marshland Road south of the Prestons Road roundabout. Carriageway widening, kerb and channel construction and revised road markings are proposed to address these issues. The high cost of these improvements means full implementation is likely to be some years away. Implementation of the road marking changes including restricting on-street parking as an interim measure is therefore proposed. The owners of the property are currently developing an off-street car parking area to provide for customers. In order to ensure that the customers use this facility rather than angle park along the road frontage it is suggested that the Council undertake on-street changes in conjunction with this work.

To remove angle parking, which is currently occurring over the footpath it is suggested, that road markings be installed clearly delineating traffic lanes, cycle lanes and footpath areas. To reinforce these markings it is proposed to install flexible marker posts along the property frontages where angle parking may occur. To ensure that vehicles do not park within the proposed cycle lane a "no parking restriction" will be required. The parking restriction will be required on both sides of the road to ensure that customers do not park on the opposite side of the road to the stalls and cross the road to purchase produce.

CONCLUSION

There is a significant road safety problem on Marshland Road south of the Prestons Road roundabout. Angle parking associated with roadside stalls is the major concern in this 80 km/h speed zone. In order to address the safety issues the property owner at 410 Marshland Road is currently developing an off-street car parking area. Once the car parking area is completed it is proposed to install traffic management along the road in the form of marked traffic lanes, flush median, cycle lane and footpath areas. To ensure that vehicles no longer park on street a “no stopping” restriction is proposed. As an interim solution flexible marker posts are proposed to restrict angle parking. Further carriageway work and kerb and channel installation will occur when funds are available.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board support the installation of a flush median, traffic lanes and cycle lane markings on Marshland Road commencing at the Prestons Road roundabout and extending south for 450 metres.
 2. That a no stopping restriction be installed on the east side of Marshland Road commencing at the Prestons Road roundabout and extending in a southerly direction for 450 metres.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: For discussion.