

**16. CENTAURUS ROAD KERB AND CHANNEL RENEWAL
(ALBERT TERRACE - RAMAHANA ROAD)**

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Lee Kelly, Roading Projects Consultation Leader, DDI 941-8355
--	--

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to proceed to final design, tender and construction of the kerb and channel renewal project for Centaurus Road (Albert Terrace – Ramahana Road).

Centaurus Road, in this section, is part of a bus route and has two bus stops. At the eastern end of this section a shopping village is located on the west side of Centaurus Road and a church on the east side. Centaurus Park is located to the western end on the south side of Centaurus Road.

There have been 12 crashes recorded over the last five years on the Land Transport Safety Authority database. Five crashes were the result of manoeuvring actions outside the shops; two crashes resulted from 'loss of control' at the bend at the Centaurus Road/Ramahana Road intersection; one crash related to a 'rear ending' of another vehicle at the Centaurus Road/Ramahana Road intersection; three crashes occurred at the roundabout and at the pedestrian crossing build-out.

RECOMMENDED OPTION

The traffic lanes will be 3m wide and most on street parking will be retained. Some on-street parking, however, will be removed on the inside curve of Centaurus Road, adjacent to the Ramahana Road intersection, to eliminate any potential 'squeeze' points for cyclists and to generally improve the alignment of this bend for all road users. Cycle lanes will be installed to provide a continuous, safe area for cyclists.

A flush median will be installed on Centaurus Road just west of the intersection of Centaurus Road and Ramahana Road. The flush median will continue through the intersection, to allow those motorists wishing to right turn from Centaurus Road into Ramahana Road an area to pull into out of the through traffic.

It is also proposed to install a median island on Ramahana Road at its intersection with Centaurus Road. This will provide a safer crossing point for pedestrians and also ensure that motorists right turning from Centaurus Road into Ramahana Road and vice versa are not able to 'cut the corner'.

It is proposed to relocate the existing bus stop adjacent to 221/221a Centaurus Road to adjacent to 227 Centaurus Road. This is to allow the new kerb line on the north side of Centaurus Road, adjacent to the intersection of Ramahana Road, to be extended out into the carriageway to improve the alignment of the bend.

INITIAL CONSULTATION

An initial consultation letter was sent out to residents in February 2003. The letter advised that the Council intended to replace the old dish guttering in this section of Centaurus Road and were looking also to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists and to provide additional landscaping enhancement. It was anticipated that construction would be completed by July 2004.

Residents were also advised that a concept plan for this section of Centaurus Road would be produced, incorporating the Council's objectives for the project along with their suggestions, where possible.

Six written submissions were received. Most were in a similar vein, that is, requesting more landscaping and the retention of grass berms. Some submitters did not want to see the installation of red cycle lanes, nor did they wish to have the road widened at all. One submitter wanted to see the aerial wiring undergrounded; another submitter wanted the 'live' hedge on the bend adjacent to the Ramahana Road intersection, given a 'No.1 haircut'.

Included in the written submissions was one from the residents of 221a Centaurus Road. They were very concerned about the amount of stormwater run-off from Ramahana Road which then runs across Centaurus Road. They cited this regular occurrence, during the winter, as a serious safety concern because it could cause vehicles to 'aquaplane' out of control.

The project control group agrees with this assessment and has requested that the Maintenance Team within City Streets address this concern by reopening an existing sump currently built into the kerb build-out on the west side of Ramahana Road at the Centaurus Road intersection. It is anticipated that reopening this existing sump will allow another 20% to 30% of the stormwater that crosses Centaurus Road to be captured. This work, along with an increase in the clearing out of other sumps in the area, should result in a significant reduction in the existing risk that the stormwater poses. The existing kerb alignment adjacent to the sump will require some modification to ensure that the reopened sump is able to capture the stormwater.

RECOMMENDED CONSULTATION PLAN

Three written submissions have been received from the consultation on the recommended plan for this section of Centaurus Road.

One submission was received from a resident of View Terrace, on behalf of other residents, expressing concern that the location of the proposed pedestrian island on Ramahana Road at its intersection with Centaurus Road would create some difficulties for residents of View Terrace.

The project team acknowledged this concern and have made a change to the recommended plan. This change will see the proposed island modified so that all turning movements in and out of View Terrace are not compromised. The island will be installed with a raised 'nose' only, at the intersection, however the remainder of the island will be installed as a mountable one.

One submission stated that the writer was surprised about the number of crashes.

The third submission was from a regular contributor to the consultation process for this project. His concerns were related to the amount of stormwater run-off from Ramahana Road and View Terrace.

The project control team believe that the proposed changes to the sumps in the area of the Centaurus Road/Ramahana Road intersection, as outlined in the publicity leaflet, will address the concerns raised. On-going monitoring of the proposed work once it is completed will provide an opportunity to make modifications, if necessary.

PROJECT BUDGET

The budget for this project is \$180,000 and it is anticipated that construction would begin in March 2004 and be completed by the end of May 2004.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board approve the Centaurus Road kerb and channel renewal project (Albert Terrace to Ramahana Road) for final design, tender and construction.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be supported.