

14. NORTH-WEST AND WESTERN RING ROAD

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The purpose of this report is to address the following matters related to the north-west and western sections of the ring road (being between Main North Road and Yaldhurst Road):

1. A proposed strategic review of this section of the ring road;
2. An outline of current proposed works in the current five year capital works programme; and
3. A brief review to identify if there are any critical safety issues that are not already under action, which may require urgent consideration.

At its 12 August 2003 meeting the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee received a combined deputation from the Fendalton-Waimairi and Shirley-Papanui Community Boards regarding the north-west and western sections of the ring road. This deputation raised concerns held by the Boards about the section of ring road generally between Main North Road and Yaldhurst Road, namely:

- Traffic speeds and volumes on this section of the ring road;
- The volume of heavy vehicles using the route;
- Traffic impacts on Westburn School;
- The structural condition of Waimairi Road;
- Safety issues related to the Greers Road/Northcote Road/Sawyers Arms Road and Greers Road/Harewood Road intersections; and
- The viability and appropriateness of the route to function as part of the city's ring road (including future capacity issues)

The Board's concluded by requesting consideration of relocation of ring road to the Russley-Johns bypass route.

It is worth noting that from the New Year this will be the only portion of the ring road which remains under the Council's control. Transit New Zealand will be responsible for the remainder (clockwise between Main North Road and Yaldhurst Road).

The Committee in considering the deputation resolved that:

"a report be provided giving information on the process and time scales for consideration of the issues raised by the Community Boards, including special school zones."

During discussion associated with this deputation, the Committee was informed that a corridor study of this section of the ring road is programmed in the transport planning team's future work programme to start in mid-2004. The time scale for this study would be a number of months, but would depend upon the process agreed (and particularly affected by how any public engagement is managed). Associated and integrated with that work would be consideration of the strategic matters in the work being undertaken on the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Statement. The strategic assessment will include the shape and operation of the city's road hierarchy. With the range of matters under consideration in the stage one development of the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Statement detailed review of the road hierarchy was not considered appropriate in order to meet the stage one deadlines. Therefore, the current hierarchy was incorporated for the time being.

The schools with accesses directly fronting this route include Westburn, Villa Maria, Bishopdale Schools and Casebrook Intermediate. The school zone programme currently being followed has identified Westburn School as a strong candidate for work in the short term, to be confirmed in coming budget rounds.

A review of the current five-year capital works programme shows that the following works are proposed for this section of the ring road:

Road	Location	Work Category	Year Programmed
Greers Road	Harewood - Langdons	Kerb and Channel	2003/04
Waimairi Road	Tudor - Greers	Cycleways	2003/04

The above works are well advanced. In addition, Waimairi Road in the vicinity of Maidstone Road will receive ongoing pavement maintenance, with major repairs within the coming five years.

A review of the Land Transport Safety Authority's black spot list for Christchurch City identifies the following intersections, the crash record for the past five years and the ranking amongst the worst 300 intersections in Christchurch:

Intersection	Total Recorded Crashes (Injury and Non-Injury) 1998-2002	Ranking (by social cost of crashes)
Greers Road/Harewood Road	23	30
Grahams Road/Memorial Avenue	16	153
Waimairi Road/Maidstone Road	18	231
Waimairi Road/Wentworth Road	11	240

As can be seen by the above table, aside from the Greers Road/Harewood Road intersection, the route does not generally feature significantly amongst the crash blackspots in Christchurch. The Greers Road/Harewood Road intersection has a range of initiatives under consideration. Some remedial traffic management works have already been implemented to address the Waimairi Road/Wentworth Road intersection, and the cycleway project above for Waimairi Road (Greers Road-Tudor Avenue) will provide further improvements in that area. Within the past five year period, Waimairi Road/Maidstone Road was converted from a roundabout to traffic signals. In both the previous situations, it is too soon to assess the success of the improvements. The Council's safety improvements budgets are limited and fully committed over the coming five years dealing with safety issues in priority order.

SUMMARY

The north-west and western ring road is to undergo a corridor study and strategic review in the coming year. A small number of works are currently programmed in the five year works programme for these roads to address a range of issues. The safety record along the route, with the exception of the Greers Road/Harewood Road intersection, does not warrant urgent action (which would result in essentially requiring higher priority sites remedial works to be delayed). Options for Greers Road/Harewood Road are under consideration by the City Streets Network Operations team."

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.