

7. NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT ACHERON DRIVE/BLENHEIM ROAD

Officer responsible
City Streets Unit Manager

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of a proposal to install traffic signals at the intersection of Acheron Drive and Blenheim Road (west of Wharenui Road), subject to full community consultation. Approval for the installation of signals is required before a Resource Consent and Building Consent can be issued.

Approval to install the signals, subject to full community consultation, is being sought from the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee at its October meeting.

Board members will be aware of a recent request from businesses in Acheron Drive for better access to and from Blenheim Rd. Currently solid medians prevent right turns into and out of Acheron Drive. This proposal will satisfy those concerns.

BACKGROUND

The Council has received an application for a Resource Consent and a Building Consent for a development in Acheron Drive at the location shown on the attached plan. To mitigate the effects of traffic generation from the site the developer has agreed to pay the full cost of installing traffic signals at the intersection of Acheron Drive and Blenheim Rd (west of Wharenui Road).

City Solutions were engaged by the developer to prepare a scheme plan, in consultation with the City Streets Unit.

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal to install traffic signals at this intersection is shown on the attached plan and has the full support of the City Streets Manager.

This intersection will be controlled by and form part of the existing signalised intersection at the Blenheim/Wharenui intersection. The operation will be similar to that of the Clyde/Riccarton/Wharenui intersection where the approaches to both intersections go green at the same time.

As shown, the proposal incorporates a free left turn from Acheron Drive and pedestrian facilities across Blenheim Road and Acheron Drive.

These signals will improve the access from the whole of Acheron Drive to the north and east, as currently a solid median exists on Blenheim Road across the intersection. The signals will also reduce the number of U-turners on the east approach of the Blenheim/Wharenui intersection who will now be able to exit from the western end of Acheron Drive to head east.

The proposal also incorporates a fully developed access to the site off Blenheim Road with the provision of an inset bus-bay. The existing bus stop is too close to the Acheron/Blenheim intersection and is to be shifted west. The existing footpath will be used to develop the left turn lane and bus-bay, but land for an equivalent 2.0 metre footpath and 3.5 metre footpath with bus shelter will be vested in road by the developer.

As a ban on parking currently exists on Blenheim Road, this is not seen as an issue.

CONSULTATION

City Streets have engaged City Solutions to project manage the project, including the consultation, with all costs being paid for by the developer.

Because of the relatively tight timeframe for the development project (completion by April 2004), it is proposed to go out to public consultation in early October and report back to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee in November. If approved, a contract to install the signals will be let in February 2004.

CONCLUSION

As part of a Resource Consent for a large retail development near the southwest corner of the Acheron/Blenheim intersection (west of Wharenui Road), the developer has agreed to pay the full cost of installing traffic signals, including associated kerb work.

The new signals will form part of the existing Blenheim/Wharenui intersection and operate in a similar manner to the Clyde/Riccarton/Wharenui intersection.

The new signals will provide a safe, controlled access onto Blenheim Road for all traffic from Acheron Drive, but especially for traffic heading north and east. A solid median on Blenheim Road currently exists across both Acheron Drive/Blenheim Road intersections. The signals will also assist traffic currently exiting the eastern end of Acheron Drive and U-turning at the Blenheim/Wharenui intersection.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That the information be received.