

9. NORTHCOTE ROAD/PROPOSED TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND CYCLE LANES

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The purpose of this report is to request that the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee approve the attached plans for safety improvements for pedestrian, cycle, and vehicle movements in Northcote Road and Greers Road between Paprika Place and Uxbridge Street, for construction.

BACKGROUND

The Northcote Road/Vagues Road intersection, and the Greers Road/Northcote Road/Sawyers Arms Road intersections are on the capital works programme under cycleways as the ‘‘Papanui High Bubble’ in the 2003/04 financial year as a result of a survey of Papanui High School pupils to identify areas they felt were unsafe. In the attached report feedback from the pupils identifies the need for traffic safety works to be carried out at the Langdons Road/Greers Road intersection. This work has been covered in the ‘Greers Road/proposed kerb and channel renewal’ project presently under construction after being approved by the Committee at its meeting on the 28 August 2003.

This ‘Safe Routes to School’ project is to be done with minimal changes to the physical infrastructure, and can only address the immediate problems of school children. Hence, the objectives were developed to increase the safety of school children, cyclists and pedestrians, without reducing traffic safety for other uses. Northcote Road and Greers Road are major arterial roads with an average traffic flow of 22,500 and 16,600 vehicles/day respectively. Sawyers Arms Road west of Greers Road is a minor arterial road carrying 11,100 vehicles/day.

This ‘Safe Routes to School’ project is thus to be done with minimal changes to the physical infrastructure, and can only address the immediate problems of the school children. Hence, the objectives were developed to increase the safety of school children, cyclists and pedestrians, without making the situation worse for anyone else.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE DESIGN OF THE CYCLE LANES

Crash Analysis

Crashes recorded in the Land Transport Safety Authority crash database have been analysed for the 1997 to 2002 period. The analysis was carried out in November 2002; hence the data are for a part year 2002 only. The numbers in brackets refer to the crash number in the listing.

Greers Road/Northcote Road/Sawyers Arms Road (west)

Twenty crashes have been recorded at or near the intersection. All crashes are non-injury.

- Seven crashes involved drivers turning right into Sawyers Arms Road being hit by oncoming through traffic (No’s 2, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17). In crash No 2, the turning driver failed to give way to an oncoming cyclist.
- Four crashes are rear end crashes. One happened to a car southbound on Greers Road (No 6), one involved vehicles turning into Sawyers Arms Road (No 18), and two of these crashes happened on the Sawyers Arms Road approach to the intersection (No’s 3, 10).
- Three crashes involved drivers turning right from Sawyers Arms Road into Greers Road, getting hit by vehicles coming from their right (No’s 7, 13, 14).
- Two crashes occurred when motorists turning right into Sawyers Arms Road lost control (No’s 4, 8). One of these crashes (No 4) is attributed to a sudden illness with no warning.
- One crash involved a parked car being hit by a van while trying to re-enter the traffic stream (No 16).
- One crash involved a car turning left from Sawyers Arms Road into Northcote Road failing to give way to traffic on Northcote Road (No 19).
- One crash involved a car executing a u-turn being hit by a truck (No 20).
- One crash involved a right angle crash between a northbound car entering or leaving a private driveway (No 1).

Northcote Road/Vagues Road

- Three crashes have been recorded at or near the intersection.
- A power cycle westbound on Northcote Road hit a train (No 34 - fatal).
- A motorist turning right onto Northcote Road from Vagues Road failed to give way to a cyclist coming from the right (No 35 - non-injury).
- A rear end crash involving four cars (No 36 - minor injury).

NETWORK CONSIDERATIONS

Before any scheme planning work was undertaken, the project team researched potential future upgrades for this part of the ring road. It was revealed that the Northern Roding Options Scoping Study (NROSS) identified the Northcote Road corridor, as well as the Northcote Road/Sawyers Arms Road intersection as a capacity restraint. Within the NROSS project, this appeared not as one of the more immediate priorities, indicating that any work might be 15 to 20 years away.

Discussions with City Streets Unit transport planners and the main roads engineer revealed that the envisaged long-term treatment is a four-laning of Northcote Road, and the signalisation of the Greers Road/Northcote Road/Sawyers Arms Road intersection. The signalisation of the Greers Road/Northcote Road/Sawyers Arms Road intersection in its current layout is not possible, as the intersection would not cope with the traffic volumes. Any signalisation can only be done as part of a future four-laning of this section of the ring road.

The residents and property owners in the area have received a publicity pamphlet advising them of the proposed works. Following consideration of the feedback (see the attached letter for a summary of their feedback) it has been decided that a worthwhile improvement to the concept plan is to widen the footpath connecting Sawyers Arms Road to Greers Road. This will provide a shared cycleway/footpath reducing the number of cyclists travelling south through the Northcote Road/Greers Road intersection.

This work is in the Papanui and Waimairi Wards and has been reported to both the Fendalton/Waimairi and Papanui/Shirley Community Board meetings on 30 September 2003 and 1 October 2003. The resolutions of these Community Boards will be tabled at the meeting, as they were not available at the time of writing.

The amount of \$130,000 is budgeted for this project; work is programmed to start in November 2003.

This project will improve the safety of school children (as cyclists and pedestrians) travelling to and from Casebrook Intermediate School and Papanui High School; the work should therefore proceed as shown on the attached plan.

Staff

Recommendation: That the project be recommended for construction as shown on attached Plan TP 152801.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted

ADDITION TO CLAUSE 9.

NORTHCOTE ROAD/PROPOSED TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND CYCLE LANES

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board 30 September 2003.

"That the traffic safety and cycle land improvements for the section of Greers Road within the Fendalton/Waimairi community be recommended to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee for implementation as shown on plan TP 152801."

Shirley/Papanui Community Board 1 October 2003.

"1. That the project be recommended for construction to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee as shown on plans TP 152801 and TP 152802.

2. To continue its advocacy role with City Streets for the upgrade of Northcote Road and the signalisation of Sawyers Arms Road/Northcote Road/Greers Road intersection."