

6. 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
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to publicise the proposed kerb and channel renewal project for Centaurus Road (Albert Terrace – Ramahana Road).

BACKGROUND

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

There have been 12 crashes recorded on the Land Transport Safety Authority database over the last five years. 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 recommended option is to renew the kerb and channel in this section of Centaurus Road. Cycle lanes will be installed to provide a continuous, safe area for cyclists. The traffic lanes will be 3 metres 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.

It is proposed to relocate the existing bus stop adjacent to numbers 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.

Please Note: At the time of writing this report those residents affected by the proposed change to the bus stop relocation have not been consulted. It is proposed to undertake this consultation before the Board meeting on 9 September 2003. It is acknowledged that there may be some objections to this proposal, however, a true indication of any objections will be relayed to the Board.

INITIAL CONSTRUCTION

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 was 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 together 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, whilst 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 storm water run-off from Ramahana Road that 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.

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 consultation.

Chairman's

Recommendation: Will advice be sought from the Parks and Waterways Unit regarding the landscaping? Otherwise I support the staff recommendation, subject to the project costs being included in the consultation pamphlet. Board members may wish to comment on the consultation process.