



12. RURAL THRESHOLD SIGNS

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Corporate Plan Output: Traffic Signs and Markings	

The purpose of this report is to outline a plan to implement a proposal of the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board to install appropriate suburban place name signs in Buchanans Road, Shands Road, Springs Road and Halswell Road (SH 75).

This report was considered by the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board which supported the recommendation.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 24 November 1999 the Community Board allocated \$10,000 to erect “Hei Hei/Broomfield”, “Hornby” and “Halswell” signs near the city’s rural/urban boundaries on Buchanans Road, Shands Road, Springs Road and Halswell Road respectively. One sign on each road was proposed and was to be set up within a planted area set in the grass verge immediately adjacent to the sealed shoulder on each of the arterial roads.

The Board approved the layout of the sign which included the Christchurch City Council logo, the appropriate place name (Hei Hei, Broomfield, Hornby or Halswell) and the words “reduce speed”. The exact location of each of the signs was to be decided upon taking into account the changes in speed limit in each of the areas chosen. Transit NZ were to be approached about the possibility of installing a sign on the Akaroa highway (SH 75) Halswell.

Coloured photographic images of the four sites, prepared by the City Design Unit and viewed by the Board, were accepted as accurately depicting the format to be used at each of the sites. A copy of the image of the Buchanans Road proposal is attached to this report.

DISCUSSION

Further consideration has been given to this proposal by the City Streets Unit and it is suggested that each of the sites be incorporated into a “rural threshold” facility at these locations. Because of the close proximity to the changes in speed limit along each of the arterial roads it is considered most appropriate to include the speed limit within the sign itself and cultivate a planted area at the point on the roadway where the speed limit changes. Dimensioned sign layouts have been prepared and are attached to this report. The layouts follow LTSA guidelines for rural thresholds – refer to the copy of the guideline diagrams attached to this report.

The City Streets Unit is in a position to commit some funding to this project so as to enable a duplicate structure to be located on the opposite side of the roadway to complete the “rural” threshold effect. Appropriate road markings would also be installed at each of the locations.

It is understood that Transit NZ is developing a sign layout for rural thresholds located on state highways. The Authority, whilst supporting the proposed rural threshold concept, are awaiting details of the Council's proposal before making a commitment to this project.

PROCESS

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board will be considering the proposed changes (enhancements) to this project. The plans of the proposal for the Akaroa highway will be forwarded to Transit NZ with a view to securing approval and assistance for funding the signs/planted areas on State Highway 75 Halswell.

CONCLUSION

The establishment of "rural thresholds" in the chosen locations will reinforce the change in road environment and provide a much sought after "flag" to motorists travelling into the city that they are entering a particular suburb and that there is a need to reduce speed. The proposed sign format could well become the Christchurch "standard" for this type of treatment.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council approve the siting of the proposed signs and plan to construct rural thresholds in Buchanans Road, Shands Road and Springs Road.
 2. That all future rural threshold signs be approved only when it is confirmed that funding will be available from the appropriate Community Board discretionary fund.