

20. SPEED CHECK TRAILERS

The City Streets Manager reported on progress on the purchase of a “Speed Check Trailer” and the method by which it is intended to fund it. This report is also being considered by the other Community Boards and the City Services Committee.

The initial approach to Boards was in February 2000 through the special budget meetings where all Boards were asked to contribute to the set up costs of the speed check trailer, estimated to be \$20,000.

A prototype trailer was trialed in September 1999. This trailer is available for hire at \$500 per week. However, availability of the trailer cannot be guaranteed as it can be hired by any Council within the Canterbury area.

The trials received a positive response from residents adjacent to trial sites and it was noticeable that vehicles slowed when they passed the trailer. This process can be followed up by enforcement. The trailer was not available long enough to obtain any measurable long term benefits. However, as traffic calming is restricted to local roads, there are few options available to the Council for dealing with speed issues on main roads. The speed check trailer is seen as a valuable tool in these cases.

An equally desirable use would be on roads in local areas, where Boards often receive petitions for traffic calming but the ‘rating’ achieved is not high enough for the allocation of funding under the ‘Neighbourhood Improvements Works’ budget for physical works. The trailer can be offered to the originator of the petition or the Residents Association so that the actual extent of the problems can be better understood, ie it may be the drivers of one or two vehicles living within the street that is creating the problem, and this could be dealt with by enforcement. The road check trailer is seen as an excellent tool for dealing with these situations and removing the frustration of residents who would otherwise consider the Council was not prepared to do anything.

Operating guidelines are currently being formulated. It is intended to offer a priority to streets in areas covered by Community Boards who have contributed to the initial funding, at no charge.

The Board **resolved** to allocate \$700, from its 2000/01 discretionary funds, as its share of the annual rental charge for the speed check trailer.