

1. RICCARTON ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the status of the Riccarton Road cycle project, and seek support for scheme plans for two sections of Riccarton Road which the City Streets Unit proposes to take to the community for consultation.

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee and the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board were advised of the City Streets Unit's intentions to investigate potential cycle and pedestrian projects along Riccarton Road in February 2002 and October 2002 respectively.

Subsequent to those reports, the City Streets Unit has reviewed the project objectives, and undertaken several drive-throughs of the road. As a result of the survey of the road, and feedback from the Community Board in particular, it is clear that the simple development of cycle facilities will not meet the needs of the road environment.

In order to provide a project structure and objectives that better meet the needs of the road the City Streets Unit has recommended some changes to the existing budget and to the project objectives for each section of the road. The next section of this report outlines the recommended changes to the budget. Subsequent sections of this report outline the issues of concern on sections of the road, note the status of the project so far, and seek comment prior to proceeding.

PROJECT BUDGET STRUCTURE

The City Streets Unit considers that the best interests of Riccarton Road users would be better met by considering the project as a Traffic Management Project, with an emphasis on improving cycle and pedestrian safety and access, with minimal impact on parking and traffic movement (rather than just a cycle project).

Subsequently, the Unit has recommended to the Six Monthly Review process, that the overall project budget be changed. The budget was previously as follows:

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Cycle Lanes	\$81,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Pedestrian Treatments (Waimairi – Ilam)	\$51,000			
Mandeville/Riccarton + Riccarton Road misc		\$289,000		

The latter item in the budget was inserted in the 1998 budget round, and was intended to provide funding to implement a number of other elements of the 1997 Traffic Management Plan.

The City Streets Unit has recommended the following budget redistribution:

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Waimairi to Ilam	\$51,000			
Mandeville to Deans		\$81,000		
Ilam to Clyde		\$140,000		
Clyde to Matipo			\$140,000	
Yaldhurst to Waimairi				\$149,000

This redistribution of the budget will combine cycle and pedestrian issues with the Traffic Management plan issues, and progressively consult and implement the various stages over the next four years. This is seen as a more effective and efficient way of working on as many relevant issues for the road at the same time, as possible.

The six monthly review process has accepted the City Streets Unit recommendations.

PROJECT STAGES UNDER ACTION

Two stages of the road are already under planning action.

1. **Waimairi Road to Ilam Road**

Middleton Grange School has a number of pupils currently crossing Riccarton Road. These pupils walk along Newnham Terrace and cross Riccarton Road adjacent to The National Bank to walk through Riccarton Park. The school has asked the Council to install a pedestrian crossing facility close to this area to provide a safe crossing point for their students.

The City Streets Pedestrian Advocate has agreed that a pedestrian facility is desirable and has developed a potential scheme, which is attached to this report. This involves the installation of a centre island, painted median and kerb extensions. The proposal removes two vehicle parking spaces as a result only of the need for kerb buildouts. A parking bay is proposed adjacent to the bank to provide temporary parking for people wishing to access the ATM machine. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the affected properties, particularly The National Bank, who have agreed to the changes.

The improved pedestrian crossing facility satisfies two of the recommendations of the 1997 Traffic Management Plan that related to the more widespread use of painted medians, and upgrading pedestrian crossings.

In conjunction with the pedestrian facility, City Streets Unit would like to install cycle lanes along Riccarton Road between the Waimairi Road and Ilam Road intersections. The existing carriageway has sufficient width to accommodate the cycle lanes without the need to ban additional parking or affect vehicle movements along Riccarton Road. Cycle counts undertaken in 2002 at the Riccarton/Ilam/Middleton Street intersection show 141 cyclists passing through the intersection during both the morning and afternoon peaks, with 18% of the cyclists in the morning being school students.

The cycle lanes have not been designed to extend through the intersections as the adjacent sections of Riccarton Road do not have cycle lanes currently. It is proposed to revisit the intersection treatments if these adjacent sections are designed at a future date.

2. **Deans Avenue to Mandeville Street**

The Council recently upgraded the Riccarton/Deans Roundabout. As part of this upgrade, short lengths of cycle lane were installed on the Riccarton Road approaches to the intersection.

The potential scheme proposes to extend these cycle lanes along Riccarton Road to Mandeville Street. Cycle counts undertaken in 2002 had 178 cyclists in the morning and afternoon peaks with up to 40% of the cyclists being school students. The proposed scheme is attached to this report.

The cycle lanes can be incorporated into the existing carriageway cross section without significantly affecting either parking or traffic movement - only one location (No 7 Riccarton Road) would require the removal of two parking spaces only. This is a commercial business that is currently used for the selling of second hand books. Parking needs to be removed as the business is close to the intersection and there are two lanes of traffic merging at this point. There is insufficient room to accommodate safe passage of vehicles, cycles, and parking spaces.

On the northern side of Riccarton Road between Mona Vale Avenue and the rail lines, there is no footpath currently provided. Pedestrians have to walk on the road to get between Mona Vale Avenue and the footpath on the other side of the rail lines. This side of the road is used by residents of the Kilmarnock Enterprises sheltered workshop and patrons to the bars that are in the immediate vicinity. It is proposed to install new kerb and channel and footpath to formalise the footpath and to increase the safety of pedestrians. It is proposed to construct this in conjunction with the new cycle lanes marking.

There has been no consultation on this section of work so far.

Proposed Future Actions

The City Streets Unit proposes to take the scheme plan for these two sections of roadway to public consultation in March, following approval to proceed (to consultation only). Following consultation, the Unit will report back to both the Community Board and the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee with the outcomes of the consultation process.

THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PROJECT

The stage of the work following the two above is planned to be the section from Ilam Road to Clyde Road. This section of the road includes residential properties, motels, Kirkwood Intermediate, a Council housing complex, shops and the Antonio Hall accommodation/function venue. The City Streets Unit proposes to commence the consultation process by asking the adjoining property owners/users about key issues and concerns they have, including pedestrian and cycle safety and parking. The subsequent scheme plan would then attempt to address their concerns, along with creation of special facilities (if warranted) for children accessing Kirkwood Intermediate School and the residents of the housing complex.

It is proposed to initiate the consultation for this stage of the project immediately following the consultation on the Waimairi Road to Ilam Road, and the Mandeville Street to Deans Avenue stages.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary:

- The City Streets Unit has proposed to the six monthly budget review process that the various budgets for the Riccarton Road cycle project, pedestrian crossing project and traffic management project, be combined into one, multi-year project, so that the range of issues for Riccarton Road can be more effectively and efficiently managed. The budget review process has accepted these recommended changes.
- A proposed scheme plan has been developed for Riccarton Road, between Waimairi and Ilam Roads. The plan was developed primarily in response to community concerns for a pedestrian crossing point opposite Riccarton Park, and the opportunity has been taken to propose cycle lanes at the same time. Some consultation on this project has already been completed in the local area with a good level of support. The Unit recommends the scheme plan proceed to wider consultation.
- A proposed scheme plan has been developed for Riccarton Road, between Mandeville Street and Deans Avenue. The scheme primarily provides cycle safety benefits and the opportunity has been taken to include additional footpath improvements. The Unit recommends the scheme plan proceed to wider consultation.
- The Unit is also recommending that the first stage of consultation for Riccarton Road between Ilam Road and Clyde Road proceed - being a survey of adjoining property issues and concerns.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board at its meeting on 5 March 2003 also considered this report and supported the recommendations.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information on the budget structure change be received.
 2. That the Council support the scheme plan for Riccarton Road, between Waimairi and Ilam Roads, to proceed to community consultation.
 3. That the Council support the scheme plan for Riccarton Road, between Mandeville Street and Deans Avenue, to proceed to community consultation.
 4. That the Council support the first stage of consultation, issues identification, for the section of Riccarton Road between Ilam and Clyde Roads, proceeding.
 5. That the above scheme plans be adopted as amendments to the Riccarton Road Traffic Management Plan.

(Note: Councillor Helen Broughton requested that her vote against the above recommendation be recorded.)