

3. HILLS ROAD/INNES ROAD INTERSECTION

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Mike Calvert, Transport Planner - Policy, DDI 941-8611
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the design details for the proposed installation of signals at the intersection of Hills Road with Innes Road as requested at the June 2003 meeting of the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee. This report has also been submitted to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board for information.

BACKGROUND

A report was presented to the June 2003 meetings of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee regarding the possible signalisation of the Hills Road/Innes Road intersection in response to safety concerns expressed by the Board and staff of Mairehau High School.

The Committee decided:

1. That a concept design be developed for the intersection and associated measures.
2. That the Committee recommend to the Annual Plan Working Party that this be a high priority for inclusion in the 2003/04 Annual Plan.

Staff were also requested to report back to the Committee with a plan of the proposed treatment of the intersection.

DISCUSSION

The design for the installation of signals at the intersection of Hills Road with Innes Road has been undertaken keeping in mind that initially the traffic flows on the Hills Road approaches are likely to remain relatively low until such time as the extension is constructed through to Queen Elizabeth II Drive. It is therefore proposed to undertake the works in two phases, with all short-term kerb realignments fitting with the long term plans for the intersection (plans attached). This approach will retain on-street parking for the park and release money in the short term for other projects whilst providing a signalised intersection, which will serve the school and surrounding residential development in the interim. The long term proposal will not be required until the Northern Arterial has been constructed.

A sum of \$300,000 is currently included in the 2003/04 budget for the intersection improvements to be undertaken in the 2004/05 year. The rough order of costs for the interim proposal is estimated to be approximately \$240,000, with the long term proposal costing a total of \$560,000. It is likely the interim project will receive Transfund funding under the simplified procedures for pedestrian projects.

The proposed designs have been discussed with senior staff members from Mairehau High School who were very happy with the concepts being promoted and some changes have been made to the initial plans as a result of these discussions.

The installation of signals at the intersection to be provided in phase one will draw more traffic through this area and will impact on the intersections of Hills Road/Westminster Street and Akaroa Street/Hills Road. An area study is therefore proposed to be undertaken in the period before the changes proceed to ensure that any effects are anticipated and appropriate provision made.

CONCLUSIONS

A proposal to signalise the intersection of Hills Road with Innes Road has been developed and funding to undertake the work included in the budget.

Recommendation: That the two phase proposal for the intersection be approved.