

7. HAREWOOD ROAD – PEDESTRIAN ROAD CROSSING FACILITIES

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Environment
Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Unit Manager
Author:	Michael Thomson, DDI 941-8950

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Respond to concerns raised by Community Board members about the safety and convenience for pedestrians wishing to cross Harewood Road in the vicinity of Chapel Street and Sails Street.
 - Respond to a submission by the Aratupu Preschool and Nursery (in terms of the Chapel Street kerb and channel renewal project).
 - Advise the Board on the process to conduct a thorough investigation to address these, and associated matters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Board members have raised concerns about the safety and convenience of pedestrians crossing Harewood Road near Chapel Street as a result of a report submitted about the reconstruction of that street. That report initially proposed a central pedestrian island located within the central painted median on Harewood Road, adjacent to and north-west of the Chapel Street/Harewood Road intersection in response to initial consultation feedback on issues related to Chapel Street. The island would complement the nearby island located at the nearby Harewood Road/Sails Street intersection.
3. In a separate meeting, the Aratupu Preschool and Nursery presented by way of a delegation to the Community Board, a range of concerns regarding the parking outside the Preschool and Nursery (located at 97 Harewood Road) and issues related to pedestrian crossing demand created by the local parking arrangements. The delegation sought a pedestrian crossing measure to be provided at their site to improve (perceived) safety for the families that regularly cross at that point, due to insufficient parking provided on their site or adjoining kerb space on Harewood Road. The delegation also highlighted the number of elderly people walking along and crossing Harewood Road in this vicinity. There is a pedestrian refuge island at this location, but the delegation considered its use and safety to be an issue for the users.
4. In addition to the pedestrian crossing request, the Aratupu Preschool and Nursery delegation raised concerns about the parking management adjacent to their site, requesting that P10 parking be introduced along their frontage. More recently a report on parking management near the rail crossing of Harewood Road generated a Board resolution that requested a review of parking management in that area.
5. The Board has acknowledged from this background, the concerns about the safety and convenience for pedestrians wishing to cross Harewood Road, and also concern about what is the most appropriate type of pedestrian crossing facility for Harewood Road.
6. When appraising the pedestrian road crossing issues in this section of Harewood Road (generally between Chapel Street and Sails Street), it is inappropriate to evaluate the individual issues in isolation from each other, or from other traffic management issues. For example, there are four elderly person residential institutions and the Preschool and Nursery along this section of road-way. Bus stops are located in this area and sufficient room is required for left and right turn manoeuvres at the intersections. Harewood Road is a minor arterial in this area, indicating that it has a significant traffic carrying function. It is also currently identified for future cycle facilities. Parking requirements should be considered, as requested by the Preschool and Nursery delegation, and the resultant effect that parking has on visibility at pedestrian crossing points must be assessed.

7. Initial review by Transport and Greenspace staff have concluded that the issues raised by the community (through the Chapel Street consultation) and the Preschool and Nursery have merit and should be addressed. As a consequence, this matter has been passed to the Network Operations team to be fully investigated as a comprehensive traffic management study for this short section of Harewood Road. A report back on this investigation to the Board could be available in three months. It should, however, be noted that there is currently no budgeted funding for this work, and once identified any proposed measures will have to be prioritised against other projects for funding in the next LTCCP or Annual Plan.

CONCLUSION

8. A number of issues related to pedestrian crossing demand on Harewood Road near Chapel and Sails Streets have been identified. An initial review of these issues has concluded that the best way forward is that a comprehensive traffic management report be prepared for Harewood Road, between the rail crossing and the Greers Road intersection. This should ensure that any proposed traffic management changes, including pedestrian road crossing facilities, do not compromise the safe and efficient use of this road-way for all road users. The findings of this report and subsequent recommendations will be reported back to the Board.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. There is currently no budget to implement any proposals to address this matter and subject to proposals being developed, they would then need to be prioritised into the appropriate budget categories.
10. Any proposals would be subject to the usual project development considerations, including consultation and compliance with the Road User and Traffic Control Devices Rules.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Board request a report to be presented within three months (in line with the undertaking given) and that the brief for the review include the Board's preference for a series of pedestrian crossings along this route for the purpose of addressing the pedestrian crossing safety issues as a matter of urgency.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT:

That a forum be held for all elected members, as well as representatives from the Police, Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee, Land Transport New Zealand and Transit New Zealand, regarding the application of pedestrian crossing facilities throughout the city.