

10. ROAD SAFETY FOR SCHOOLS STEERING GROUP

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The purpose of this report is to update the City Services Committee on the City Councils Road Safety for Schools Steering Group.

BACKGROUND

The Council established the Road Safety for Schools Steering Group in 1997. The aim of the Steering Group is to ensure better co-ordination of the City Council's initiatives regarding road safety for schools in the City.

The Steering Group works directly with the school community and ensures that children's needs within the roading environment are acknowledged, prioritised, advocated for and addressed when funds become available.

The Steering Group is chaired by Councillor Ron Wright with deputy chairperson Councillor Sally Thompson and the membership consists of Council staff, a primary principal's representative, a New Zealand Police representative and a Land Transport Safety Authority staff member.

This financial year, 1999-2000 the Steering Group has been allocated \$100,000 in funding with a further \$75,000 in funding allocated for the next 4 years until 2004.

PROJECTS

Attached to this report is a priority list of projects finalised after consultation with schools and the area engineers and work is underway to complete the top three this financial year. Those projects below the top three are initiatives that have been raised in the past by schools and staff and will be completed, as funds become available. The exception to this is the Prestons Road at Marshlands School project. It has been suggested that raising the road on the eastern approach to the school on Prestons Road, combined with a treatment similar to the rural threshold treatment on Philpotts Road, may address the concerns that the school has of vehicle speed outside the school. The cost of this project is significant and would mean that several smaller projects may need to be deferred.

A further 20 projects have been identified by the Area Engineers and once ranked on a city wide basis will be included on a list which will be considered by the Road Safety for Schools Steering Group for inclusion in future programmes.

A listing of all primary and intermediate schools in the Christchurch area has been prepared. The information available includes the postal address, school principal, telephone contact, type of school crossing facility and any work proposed that will improve road safety for children travelling to and from school. Copies of this document will be tabled at the meeting for the information of members of the Committee.

CONCLUSION

The Road Safety for Schools Steering Group has contributed to the processes of providing for road safety outside schools and co-ordinates programmes such as Safe Routes to School and Cycle Safe for the Council. The process of identifying problems, finding solutions, and generating projects for road safety for schools is very important and should continue to be resourced by the Council.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.