

### 34. ROAD SAFETY ISSUES ON RURAL HILL ROADS



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Corporate Plan Output: Safety Improvement Works	

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on road safety issues on rural hill roads.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Recently, there has been public comment about the safety of the City Section of Evans Pass Road from the Summit Road down into Sumner. In particular, the site of a recent fatal car crash that occurred on a bend in the roadway approximately 800 m down from the Summit Road.

It is becoming increasingly important to formally identify and analysis black spots on roads in the city. Many of the top priority crash sites are at controlled intersections with high traffic flows. Others are along arterial routes in both urban and rural areas.

Elsewhere in the agenda is a report on road marking standards where reference has also been made to the value of existing road audits that have been carried out by the Council. Next month the Committee will be informed of the results of a crash reduction study for a bend in Grahams Road at Greers Road. The Cashmere Road/Hoon Hay Road/Worsleys Road junction will also be reported on.

Road controlling authorities such as the Christchurch City Council have a duty to identify and programme safety improvement works within their districts. The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) maintains a crash database built on accident reports from the Police. The Council relies on this reporting process to identify accident black spots on roads in the city.

#### **HILLSIDE SCENIC AND ARTERIAL TRAFFIC ROUTE STUDIES**

In 1993 a crash reduction study was completed for Dyers Pass Road between Takahe Drive and the Sign of the Kiwi. This study was extended to the Dyers Pass Road end of the Summit Road to assist in identifying additional remedial works that needed to be carried out in this area. More recently (1998) an existing road audit was completed for the complete (city) sections of the Summit Road and Dyers Pass Road.

Up until this point no formal crash reduction study or safety audit has been carried out for the city section of Evans Pass Road.

#### **REMEDIAL WORKS**

Since the 1993 crash reduction studies and the 1998 existing road audits along the Summit Road and Dyers Pass Road a number of initiatives have been taken to improve safety along these important scenic and arterial routes.

New crash barriers have been constructed in two locations on the Summit Road and in five locations along Dyers Pass Road. Road delineation (signs and markings) have been improved along both routes and a further site is being considered for inclusion in the safety improvements programme for 2001/02.

#### **EVANS PASS ROAD**

Many of the bends along the city section of Evans Pass Road are short but give every appearance of being sweeping. The steep gradient encourages some motorists to drive at a speed that is too fast for the conditions. As with other winding rural hillside roads the margin for driver error can be reduced if unusual road conditions are encountered. Almost all “out of control” crashes that occur on rural roads occur due to a combination of factors including speed, weather and adverse road surface conditions. Road geometry can also be a factor and one that may be able to be addressed by roading authorities.

A brief for both a crash reduction study and road safety audit of the route including the section of Evans Pass Road between Summit Road and Wakefield Avenue is being prepared. Intersection improvements are programmed for the Evans Pass Road/Heberdeen Ave/Ocean View Terrace/Wakefield Ave junction at the bottom of the hill adjacent to Van Asch College. Scheme plans are currently being prepared for this project and work is scheduled to be completed this financial year.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Road safety is a priority for the Council. Crash patterns on city roads including hillside scenic and arterial routes are monitored through the information made available by the Police and the LTSA crash database. Black spots are identified and crash reduction studies undertaken to determine the extent of remedial works required to improve the road environment.

Approximately 25 km of existing road (or route) audits and ten crash reduction studies are completed each year by the Council. This process identifies problems with the existing road infrastructure and often recommends low cost remedial works to bring arterial routes up to an appropriate standard.

Many remedial works have been carried out along the city sections of Dyers Pass Road and the Summit Road in recent years. Two works were completed last financial year. Arrangements are being made to conduct a crash reduction study and existing road audit on the section of Evans Pass Road between the Summit Road and Wakefield Avenue. Improvements are planned for the Evans Pass Road/Heberdeen Avenue/Ocean View Terrace/Wakefield Ave intersection this financial year.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.