

11. SPEED LIMIT REVIEW 2000

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| Corporate Plan Output: Traffic Signs and Markings | |

The purpose of this report is to outline proposals to alter existing speed limits on roads in the Halswell area and along the new sections of the Woolston/Burwood Expressway (ANZAC Drive) between Travis Road and Bexley Road near Wetlands Grove. Information has also been provided on a review on the speed limits along part of the Summit Road, Dyers Road and Travis Road. This report will also be considered by the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board and City Services Committee.

BACKGROUND

Within the 50 km/h urban speed limit zone there are many roads that are rural in nature. The Council's Traffic and Parking Bylaw lists 60, 80 km/h and speed limits under 50 km/h. 70 km/h speed limits are gazetted under existing traffic law. Proposals in the future will require the Council, as road controlling authority for the area, to gazette all speed limits in the city.

PROCESS

When changing speed limits on roads in the city, the Council must undertake rating assessments for roads under review using the Land Transport Safety Authority's (LTSA) RTS17 "Guidelines for Setting Speed Limits". The results of manual assessments are then checked with the LTSA computer programme "Speed Limits New Zealand".

The relevant data is then assessed and discussed with stakeholders including NZ Police, NZ AA, LTSA, TNZ and the Road Transport Forum.

The Council then needs to discuss the results of the speed limit assessments and promote the changes amongst local communities. Decisions must then be taken on the most appropriate speed limits for the roads being reviewed, appropriate gazette notices prepared by the LTSA and changes made to the fourth schedule (Bylaw Speed Limits) of the Council's Traffic and Parking Bylaw.

The timeframe for the process this year should be completed in time for the opening in July 2000 of the Travis Road to New Brighton Road section of ANZAC Drive.

AFFECTED ROADS

1. ANZAC Drive between Travis Road and New Brighton Road (new road) 80 km/h
2. ANZAC Drive between New Brighton Road and Wainoni Road (new road) 80 km/h
3. ANZAC Drive Wainoni Road to Pages Road (future road) 80 km/h
4. ANZAC Drive Pages Road to Bexley Road near Wetlands Grove (future road) 80 km/h

The above proposals are included in a map of Christchurch City Speed Limits, which will be tabled at the meeting.

SETTING SPEED LIMITS

The setting of speed limits in New Zealand is based on road controlling authorities being able to assess ratings on a roadside development basis. This process has been followed in the assessment of the speed limits under review, which broadly fall into the following categories:

- 100 km/h is the general open road rural speed limit.
- 80 km/h is the speed limit on some local and arterial rural roads and is often used as a route speed limit on roads linking urban areas.
- 70 km/h is the speed limit along roads where there is urban development along one side only abutting rural areas and along short sections of rural road linking with urban 50 km/h speed limit areas.
- 60 km/h is the speed limit along selected arterial routes where there is a high standard of road geometry and is often used as a route speed limit in urban areas.
- 50 km/h is the general urban speed limit.

A report on a review of a number of speed limits on existing roads and proposed roads in the city was prepared by Atoni Facey Consulting will be tabled at the meeting. The report covers all of the above proposals and was used as a basis for discussions with the NZ Police, NZ AA, LTSA, TNZ and the Road Transport Forum.

CONCLUSION

The setting of an 80 km/h speed limit along the new sections of ANZAC Drive is proposed along with the extending of the urban (50 km/h) speed limit to areas recently designated as Living zones in the Council's City Plan.

Following initial consideration by Community Boards and the City Services Committee it is proposed to circulate the proposals to the relevant communities and bring back the results of the consultation process to Community Boards, the City Services Committee and the Council in May 2000. Bylaw and Gazette Notice procedures are to be completed by the end of July so that the appropriate speed limit can be posted on the Travis Road to New Brighton Road section of ANZAC Drive when it is opened to traffic.

Recommendation: That the Board consider the above proposals to alter speed limits on selected existing and proposed roads in the city and make appropriate recommendations to the City Services Committee.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the City Services Committee that a 70 km/h speed limit be set on ANZAC Drive for the consistency of speed limits throughout the Woolston/Burwood Expressway.