

18. RAILWAY CROSSINGS SAFETY STANDARDS

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Bill Greenwood, Transportation Safety Engineer, DDI 371-1946
Corporate Plan Output:	

The purpose of this report is to discuss concerns raised regarding safety standards at railway crossings. The report describes new signage and additional controls to be installed. Road crossing surface maintenance standards, particularly those causing difficulty for cyclists, are reported to railway staff responsible for this issue.

DISCUSSIONS

There are 45 railway level crossings in Christchurch City. A survey of all these crossings to identify safety hazards which required addressing was undertaken five years ago. The inspection involved Council, LTSA and NZ Rail net staff. All the safety items identified were subsequently addressed by the relevant parties.

The Railway Safety and Corridor Management Act 1992 defines the Council and the rail operator (Tranzrail) responsibilities at and in the vicinity of the crossings. Tranzrail has control and responsibilities for a distance of 5m each side of railway tracks.

In May this year, the LTSA published a revised Road Signs and Markings for Railway Level Crossings standard. Signs and markings are required to be installed to the standard by 31 December 2000. This work is being progressively implemented and is expected to be completed by the required date.

Complaints regarding the road surface condition at railway level crossings are regularly received by the Council. The uneven surfaces are of particular concern to cyclists. The problem is the result of the roadway flexing when heavy carriages pass along the railway. As noted above, it is the rail operators responsibility to address this issue. All complaints regarding this issue received by the Council are forwarded to the railway staff member responsible.

CONCLUSIONS

All railway level crossings within the city have been surveyed for safety issues and the hazards identified have been addressed. The signs and road markings at these crossings are currently being upgraded to the new national standard by the Council and Tranzrail.

Problems with the roadway surface at railway level crossings are the responsibility of Tranzrail and are referred to them by the Council for treatment.

Recommendation: The information be received.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the City Streets Manager report early in the New Year as to whether the new standards have been successfully implemented in Christchurch.
 2. That where complaints on road surfaces within Tranzrail's area of responsibility are not satisfactorily actioned by Tranzrail within a reasonable time, the Committee be informed.