

## 19. WAIMAIRI ROAD PEDESTRIAN ISLAND AT WENTWORTH STREET

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Streets Manager	<b>Author</b> Brian Neill, Traffic Engineer, DDI 371 1616
Corporate Plan Output: Pedestrian Initiatives/Traffic Signs and Markings	

The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal to install a pedestrian island and associated roadmarkings in Waimairi Road south of Wentworth Street. The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board has also considered this report, and a copy of the board comments will be separately circulated.

### BACKGROUND

Hazards facing pedestrians crossing Waimairi Road in the vicinity of the shops on the corner of Wentworth Street and south along Waimairi Road to Maidstone Road was first given attention by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board in 1997. A scheme plan to construct three pedestrian islands between Greers Road and Maidstone Road was prepared. Unfortunately, due to problems associated with the relative narrowness of the roadway, parking demand, the repositioning of bus stops and compatibility with cycle movements it was not practicable to pursue this project at that time.

Since the original scheme plan was prepared, traffic signals at Maidstone Road and a pedestrian island south of St Cleo Street have been installed. The City Streets Unit is proposing, that, as part of the five year capital works programme, overhead reticulation is likely to be undergrounded along Waimairi Road between Greers Road and Tudor Ave. This would provide the opportunity for parking bays to be constructed along the western side of Waimairi Road to provide more roadspace for the marking of cycle lanes and provision of a continuous flush (painted) median.

When the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board considered this report, the suggestion was made that off-road cycleway alternatives be investigated as part of this future project.

Now that the traffic signals have been installed at the Maidstone Road intersection our focus for improving traffic management in the area has centred on the Greers Road/Waimairi Road and Wentworth Street/Waimairi Road intersections.

### PROPOSALS

There is a high demand for right turning traffic from Waimairi Road into Greers Road. This includes a number of cyclists travelling to Burnside High School. Crashes have occurred at this junction and traffic congestion in the area is often present during times of the day when pupils are being dropped off/collected from Westburn School. The proposed plan indicates changes that will address the traffic management problems associated with these intersections, provide for pedestrian movements (a pedestrian island in Waimairi Road and tighter corner roundings into Wentworth Street) which will assist pupils travelling to and from both Burnside High and Westburn Schools.

A plan detailing these proposals is attached to this report.

### CONSULTATION

People immediately affected by the proposal were canvassed for their views prior to the plan being circulated to residents, businesses in the area and Westburn School.

The general reaction was of agreement with the traffic management proposals, including more extensive bans on kerbside parking in the area. The shifting of the bus stops (which is an essential feature of the proposal) initially met with some resistance from the owners or occupiers of the homes where the new bus stops would be best located. The initial plan, which was discussed with residents, provided for both the "in" and "out" bus stops to be located between Greers Road and the zebra pedestrian crossing for Westburn School. Sight visibility, cycle and traffic manoeuvres from the Greers Road intersection would have been made difficult with the bus stops in these locations and were seen as compromising road safety by the residents who have frontage to this part of the roadway.

The proposal circulated within the community has met with a good response from the residents including those immediately affected by the work. Many of those responding to the leaflet took the opportunity to raise other concerns about traffic in the area including the volume and speed of traffic along both Greers Road and Wentworth Street. There is a real concern in the community about the hazards faced by students travelling to Westburn, Burnside High and Christ the King Schools.

It is likely that, as a follow up to concerns raised by residents, safety along the section of Greers Road (between Waimairi Road and Memorial Avenue) will be undertaken. This road provides an important cycle link to Burnside High and the bends in the roadway have contributed to some drivers losing control of their vehicles.

## **CONCLUSION**

The proposal to improve traffic management along this section of Waimairi Road will assist pupils travelling to and from school and provide a safer road environment for turning traffic (including cyclists) and for pedestrians crossing Waimairi Road and Wentworth Street. Although there are no further works immediately planned for the area, future programmes will no doubt address many of the issues that have been raised by residents, who have responded to the leaflet.

- Recommendation:**
1. That a pedestrian island be constructed in Waimairi Road south of its intersection with Wentworth Street.
  2. That bus stops be established in the following areas:
    - i. On the east side of Waimairi Road commencing at a point 92 m from its intersection with Greers road and extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 14 m.
    - ii. On the west side of Waimairi Road commencing at a point 45 m from its intersection with Wentworth Street and extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 15 m.
  3. That the stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time in the following areas:
    - i. On the east side of Waimairi Road commencing at its intersection with Greers Road and extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 92 m.
    - ii. On the east side of Waimairi Road commencing at its intersection with Greers Road and extending in a northerly direction for a distance of 20 m.
    - iii. On the west side of Waimairi Road commencing at its intersection with Wentworth Street and extending in a northerly direction for a distance of 120 m.
  4. That existing parking restrictions in the aforementioned areas be revoked.

## **Chairman's**

- Recommendation:**
- That the above recommendation be adopted.