

## 24. INTRODUCTION TO THE 'SAFE CYCLING TO SCHOOL' PROJECT

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Corporate Plan Output:	

The purpose of this report is to introduce the 'Safe Cycling to School' project to the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board.

The City Councils 'Safe Cycling to School' project aims, through identifying problem spots and finding engineering solutions, to help children cycle safely and conveniently to school.

'Safe Cycling to School' co-exists with the Council's two other school travel schemes: 'Cycle Safe' cycle competency training and the 'Safe Routes to School'. These tend to focus on primary school children (aged 5-10) and, until 'Safe Cycling to School', a gap existed in the support programme for older children.

### THE 'SAFE CYCLING TO SCHOOL' PROCESS (IN BRIEF)

1. Schools are identified for investigation, based on those with the highest existing cyclist volumes (estimated by bike shed bicycle counts), and proximity to other schools, either a high or intermediate. This enables a 'cluster' effect to allow effort/funding to be concentrated in a particular area.

**The cluster in the Spreydon/Heathcote area has involved Cashmere High and Somerfield Schools.**

2. Schools are invited to participate. Students then complete questionnaires, which aim to identify and gather details of the most worrying locations from a child cyclist point of view.
3. The top 'danger spot' locations are identified from the returned questionnaires for further investigation. These tend to be very specific stretches of road or intersections.
4. The most worrying locations are then observed at on-site investigations, which aim to look more closely at the safety issues raised in the returned questionnaires.
5. Coinciding with these on-site investigations, immediately neighbouring households are asked about any problems they have, or have noted others experiencing. This allows for a more balanced set of views-points during the on-site investigations.
6. Developed from the on-site investigations are Scheme Plans. These list the engineering improvements necessary to improve the safety of children cycling to school. The Scheme Plans are distributed as publicity pamphlets to the school community, local libraries, City Council lists of interested parties and to neighbours including, again, the immediately neighbouring households.
7. Following consultation, changes to the original Scheme Plan are made, as newly raised issues need resolving.
8. After construction, traffic safety education will be essential within the schools on how best to use any new cycling facilities in the area.

### Current Situation for the Cashmere-Somerfield Project

The questionnaires have been returned and the '2 Top Danger Spots for Cycle Safety Concerns' have been calculated from responses from both schools.

The children have made the following comments:

1. **Barrington Street/Ashgrove Terrace intersection**  
Crossing straight across Barrington is really hard as lots of traffic - 23  
Crossing straight across Barrington is really dangerous as lots of traffic - 7  
Takes ages to cross road as not many gaps in traffic to allow to cross - 5  
This intersection is too close to roundabout, making it harder to get cross - 8  
Too many cars - 6  
Cars go too fast - 2  
Needs a zebra crossing to help cyclists cross - 2  
(Comments on other various difficulties - 25)

2. **Milton Street/Simeon Street intersection**

Somerfield School was surveyed as a joint venture between the 'Safe Cycling to School' and 'Safe Routes to School' projects. Consequently, proposals for Milton-Simeon intersection will cater for child pedestrians too.

Somerfield comments also include those of parents:

It's very dangerous for children crossing Milton Street at the Simeon Street corner - both walking and biking.

Milton Street and Simeon Street is a very busy road to cycle over.

A pedestrian refuge at the corner of Milton and Simeon streets would help, and the walkway through Somerfield Park could be part of a cycleway.

I do worry about my son biking across the Milton Street-Simeon Street intersection.

We need a pedestrian crossing corner on Milton and Simeon streets.

When my boys walk to school it takes about ten minutes to cross Milton Street in the morning.

**CURRENT STAGE OF THE PROCESS**

Following the on-site investigations, Council staff are working through a number of issues needing to be resolved, before the Scheme Plans can be distributed for public consultation.

Community Board members will receive the Scheme Plan publicity pamphlets through the Council's lists of interested parties. However Board members are welcome to voice any queries, concerns or per-sonal perspectives about these locations to: Victoria Lawson, 371-1614 or Victoria.Lawson@ccc.govt.nz

Following Public Consultation, the Board will be shown the final scheme plans for comment.

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