

8. GREERS ROAD ROADMARKINGS

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Brian Neill, Traffic Engineer DDI 371-1616
Corporate Plan Output: Carriageway Sealing	

The purpose of this report is to gain the Board's approval for a revised roadmarking plan that will involve a ban on parking on the inside of the two bends in Greers Road between Memorial Avenue and Waimairi Road. Existing parking restrictions on the approaches to both the Waimairi Road and Memorial Avenue intersections will also need adjusting if the plan is adopted.

BACKGROUND

The section of Greers Road between Memorial Avenue and Waimairi Road will shortly be resealed. The resealing will have safety as well as maintenance benefits in that the new road surface will not be as slippery as the present one and the road markings (that will be obliterated) can be replaced in a more appropriate position to guide drivers negotiating the "S" bend and provide a more logical alignment for the cycle lanes that are used by commuter and school cyclists who need to travel through this area.

CONSULTATION

The road marking plan **attached** to this report indicates the proposed realignment of road markings along this section of Greers Road. The plan was circulated to local residents late last year. 13 people have replied indicating support for the resurfacing of the roadway and the new road markings. The main concerns that were expressed by residents was speeding traffic and the inability of people to gain adequate visibility when exiting their driveways on the inside of the bends in the roadway. One respondent who is concerned about the high use of this section of Greers Road for through traffic suggests that more should be done to slow drivers. The loss of some kerbside parking will affect parents of children attending Westburn School in that there is only a limited amount of kerbside parking available for parents close to the school at the present time.

As a result of discussions with residents who responded to the proposal, a speed survey was undertaken in conjunction with a traffic count to determine the average and 85th percentile speeds through the "S" bend. The average (7 day) volume for the week beginning 17 December 2001 was 9,088 vehicles per day. The mean speed was 48 km/h with an 85th percentile speed of 53 km/h.

CRASHES

Residents have reported that the majority of crashes that have occurred in this section of roadway are the result of cars spinning out of control as they head north from Memorial Avenue towards Waimairi Road. Drivers appear to negotiate the first (left hand) bend comfortably but fail to slow for the second (right hand) bend in the roadway between Chevron Place and Tudor Avenue. The crashes often occur at night and when the road is wet. It is speculated that speed and alcohol are involved.

THE PROPOSAL

The resurfacing of the roadway through the "S" bend will offer superior skid resistance for vehicles that are being driven along this section of Greers Road.

The present road markings follow the bends in the roadway. However, the present centreline makes for a tighter bend between Chevron Place and Tudor Avenue than the bend south of Chevron Place. The cycle lanes are presently located outside the white edgeline adding to the problem for motorists travelling through the area.

Cyclists, student cyclists in particular, feel vulnerable if they travel within the present cycle lanes through the "S" bend. Most, when cars are not parked in these areas, cycle close to the kerb and, in effect, cut the corners as do the majority of motorists.

The proposed road markings will provide better guidance for motorists, improve safety for cyclists and, where parking is to be banned, will provide improved sight visibility for residents exiting from their properties. The opportunity will also be taken to provide continuity to the cycle lanes from Waimairi Road through to the signals at Memorial Avenue. Proposals for other improvements at the Memorial Avenue junction include linking cycle facilities at the entrance to Burnside High School with the Memorial Avenue intersection; these proposals will be reported on to the Board shortly.

Although traffic speed has been cited as the main problem with traffic travelling through the area, the speed profile indicates that most drivers travel along this section of Greers Road at close to the urban speed limit of 50 km/h. Unfortunately, there are some drivers who regard the “S” bend as a challenge and travel through it at excessive speed for the conditions. Unfortunately not too much can be done about these drivers and traffic calming options such as speed humps and road narrowings are not appropriate on this high volume collector route.

CONCLUSIONS

The opportunity should be taken to realign the road markings in this section of Greers Road to provide improved guidance for motorists and cyclists using this important collector route. There will be some loss of kerbside parking on the inside radius of the “S” bend. However, sight visibility for residents driving out of their properties will be improved particularly during the morning peak when commuters are on the road and school traffic is heavy.

Traffic speeds through the area are unlikely to change. However, the improvements should increase driver awareness and provide for a safer roadway. Both speed, volume and driver behaviour will be monitored following the implementation of this project and reported back to the Board later in the year.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the work on realigning the road markings along the section of Greers Road between Memorial Avenue and Waimairi Road be approved.
 2. That the parking of vehicles be prohibited at any time in the following areas:
 - (i) On the south side of Greers Road commencing at its intersection with Waimairi Road extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 53 m.
 - (ii) On the north side of Greers Road commencing at its intersection with Waimairi Road extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 44 m.
 - (iii) On the south side of Greers Road commencing at its intersection with Memorial Avenue and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 50 m.
 - (iv) On the north side of Greers Road commencing at its intersection with Memorial Avenue and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 54 m.
 - (v) On the south side of Greers Road commencing at a point 205 m from its intersection with Memorial Avenue and extending generally in a westerly direction for a distance of 85 m.
 - (vi) On the north side of Greers Road commencing at a point 84 m from its intersection with Waimairi Road and extending generally in an easterly direction for a distance of 134 m.
 3. That existing parking restrictions in the aforementioned areas be revoked.

Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.