

9. MALCOLM AVENUE – SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL KERB BUILD OUT

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| Corporate Plan Output: Capital Expenditure | |

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the result of consultation and seek approval to proceed with design and construction (see attached).

BACKGROUND

Thorrington School identified a safety issue for their pupils crossing Malcolm Avenue, as part of the “Safer Routes to School” programme. The school pupils travel up the sealed footpath along the riverbank (the “Donkey Track”), cross Malcolm Avenue, and continue north along the riverbank.

The proposal attached indicates kerb build outs at the bridge on Malcolm Avenue. The kerb line on the bridge will be continued to Hunter Terrace and narrow the carriageway. Parking will be removed from both sides of the road along the new kerb line.

The entrance to Hunter Terrace will be tightened and this will reduce the speed of vehicles exiting the street.

The cobbled paving area at the crossing point will be increased and matched with the work that Parks and Waterways Unit has already carried out.

The proposed work will reduced the crossing distance and increase visibility for pedestrians.

DISCUSSION

Seven replies were received to the publicity plan, including one telephone call. The main issue raised was not the crossing point at the bridge, but the speed of traffic on Malcolm Avenue. Traffic travelling west comes down hill on to the bridge and visibility from the top of the rise is poor.

The new work at the bridge will reduce the road width across of Malcolm Avenue from 13 metres to 9 metres between Waimea Terrace and Hunter Avenue. This will create a narrow section of road that should slow traffic. It will also reduce the amount of road space pedestrians have to cross. Because there will be no parking along this section of road the school children will have a good view of the traffic.

CONCLUSION

As the concerns raised in the replies to the publicity are generally (4 to 3) in favour of the work being undertaken and the issue of speed in Malcolm Avenue is beyond the scope of this project, approval is sought to proceed with the final design plans and construction.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Malcolm Avenue, safer routes to school project proceed to design and construction.

Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the officer’s recommendation be adopted.