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Attention Jon Harris

Dear Jon

Timaru Traffic Issues

Following a discussion with Fiona Whero, I am writing in response to the letter you sent last July regarding formalising contact with your group, and in response to the issues raised regarding the recent signal installation at the Evans Street/Newmans Street intersection.

As you are no doubt aware, NZTA is committed to ensuring cycling (and walking) is considered in everything we do – from maintenance activities to major projects. We do keep Councils, the local Road Safety Coordinating Committees, and other organisations such as the Automobile Association and Road Transport Association fully informed of any minor safety works or improvement works we are planning to undertake, through regular liaison meetings. It is indeed possible to include Squeaky Wheel in the list of organisations and meet with you from time to time.

I have been talking to Andrew Dixon from TDC and he tells me that you meet regularly with his staff, so might I suggest that these meetings also include NZTA? If that is not suitable, I am generally in Timaru every 2 -3 weeks and can organise a meeting around one of those visits provided enough notice is given. If you care to contact me directly (business card attached), I would be happy to arrange a suitable date for meeting.

As the Area Manager for South Canterbury, I deal specifically with operational and maintenance issues, and minor improvements only (up to a value of \$250,000). The more major projects are prioritised through our Transportation section (headed by Michael Blyleven) and then pass through the NLTP process and Regional Transportation Committees, with a full submission and consultation process. These larger projects have separate investigation and design phases once funding is committed. At our meetings we could discuss all programmed works, and if they do not relate to operational issues or minor works, I could advise you who to contact and at what stage if you desire to review what is planned.

Regarding the signals recently installed at the Evans Street/ Newmans Street intersection, we are aware cyclists are not fully catered for in the new layout. However every opportunity was taken in the design phase to ensure that a best compromise for all users was arrived at, given NZTA was unable to oppose the development in the adjacent property. Similar situations exist along several other sections of Evans Street. Although this is not ideal, Evans Street is not intended to be a route to be favoured by cyclists due to both width constraints and traffic volumes, and as such is not designated as a cycle route in the TDC draft Active Transport Strategy. This is a situation NZTA will not be able to look to rectify until

Evans Street is progressively 4-laned at some stage in the future. In the meantime local roads and marked routes along Selwyn Street and tracks through Ashbury Park provide a far safer cycling environment, and we would encourage cyclists to use them in preference to Evans Street.

As yet there are no definitive plans for the signal installation at either Te Weka Street or Grants Road, as timing for both projects will be dependent on the need generated by the aquatic centre (for Te Weka Street) and the Showgrounds development (for Grants Road). Discussions will continue between NZTA and TDC as to the timing of these works. There will be full planning and consultative processes required for both of these projects, and we will ensure Squeaky Wheel is involved.

Yours sincerely

Colin Hey
Area Engineer South Canterbury