

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMO

FILE NO AND TRIM NO: RDG-31 / 230512068860

DATE: 12th May 2023

MEMO TO: Director of Land Transport

FROM: Joanne McBride – Roading and Transport Manager

SUBJECT: Further Information Regarding the Proposed Speed Limit on Smith Street, Kaiapoi

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide further information to the Director of Land Transport for considering the proposed 50 km/h speed limit on Smith Street, Kaiapoi.

Alignment with Safe and Appropriate Speed

The current version of Mega Maps indicates that the safe and appropriate speed along this length of Smith Street is 40 km/h, which does not align with the 50 km/h speed limit proposed by Council. The reasons for this not aligning are as follows:

- A 40 km/h speed limit would be out of context with the rest of Smith Street. Currently, Waka Kotahi's overbridge speed limit is 80 km/h and the urban traffic area (UTA) for Kaiapoi is 50 km/h. The section of Smith Street included within the UTA will not be reviewed until the 2027-2030 Speed Management Plan; therefore, this change could be seen as an incremental step, which can be reviewed as part of the future iteration of the plan.
- The community requested that the 50 km/h speed limit be extended further west (over the overbridge). Council staff approached Waka Kotahi with this information; however, their response was that they did not have any plans of reviewing this speed limit, nor implementing a lower speed limit, at this time. This again furthers the argument for not having an out of context speed limit.
- When Council was presented with the proposed speed limit change, some of our elected members questioned the speed and requested a 60 km/h speed limit, rather than 50 km/h, along this section of Smith Street (as can be seen in the minutes of the Council meeting already provided). If a 40 km/h speed limit along Smith Street was to be put forward to Council, staff are of the opinion that this would not be supported at this stage.
- One feedback point staff regularly receive from the community is the need for consistency of speed limits. Therefore, the approach taken on Smith Street for continuing the 50 km/h speed limit up to the overbridge aligns with what the community has requested.
- The mean operating speed along this section of Smith Street, obtained from the Council's tube count site, is 62 km/h, with an 85th percentile speed of 69 km/h. While the land use environment is changing, it is considered that further infrastructure changes, beyond what is currently underway, would be required to support a 40km/h speed, including improvements onto the Lineside Road Overbridge which is within Waka Kotahi's jurisdiction. This is not currently allowed for in WDC or Waka Kotahi's work programmes.

Having reviewed all factors, it is considered that the proposed 50 km/h speed limit provides a good outcome and that this can be seen as a step change towards a 40 km/h speed limit, which will be considered when the rest of Smith Street is reviewed in the 2027-2030 Speed Management Plan. A request for a 40 km/h speed limit at this time will not get buy in from the Waimakariri elected officials.