



STATE HIGHWAY 3 NAPIER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Summary of infrastructure safety improvements engagement

APRIL 2022

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Background

Palmerston North is experiencing sustained growth in residential and commercial activity, with the area to the east of the city centre, Kelvin Grove, being one of the fastest growing areas. As a result, there are increasing issues related to safety on SH3 Napier Road, and access between suburban and commercial areas locally to other areas in Palmerston North.

The intersections along this stretch of road have a poor safety record. Between 2011-2020, there were three people killed and 80 people injured in crashes on this road.

Community members have also shared their concerns about being able to use the road safely.

In response to the changing environment around SH3 Napier Road and the resulting road safety issues, we have introduced new permanent speed limits and are planning to make safety improvements to infrastructure between Keith Street and Stoney Creek Road.

In early 2022, during consultation on the proposed new safer speed limits, we published the draft concept design for safety improvements to give the community the opportunity to provide their feedback.

Key features of the proposed infrastructure improvements include:

- Traffic signals at the SH3 Napier Road / Roberts Line intersection.
- Improved walking and cycling facilities along SH3 between Keith Street and Roberts Line.
- Pedestrian refuge islands to help cross SH3.
- A widened centreline from Roberts Line to Stoney Creek Road to create more space between people travelling in opposite directions, reducing the likelihood of centreline crashes in this area.
- Stormwater facilities to better capture and treat water running off the road.

We have been considering the feedback we received on the improvements as we work towards finalising the detailed design. We expect to provide an update on the infrastructure improvements later this year.

Engagement on improvements

Rangitāne O Manawatū

Two formal meetings have been held with Rangitāne O Manawatū focusing on infrastructure improvements. Key areas of interest include lagoon water quality, path connections to the lagoon, history, amenity and learning and future naming opportunities.

Stakeholders

Engagement notification letters were sent to national stakeholders (Automobile Association (AA), NZ Police, and Ia Ara Aotearoa Transporting) on 23 February 2022. These letters included information on the speed review, infrastructure improvements and the community engagement period. National stakeholders were also invited to attend the stakeholder workshop.

A workshop was held on 17 February 2022 for all project key stakeholders.

The workshop provided key stakeholders with a project update, overview of the proposed infrastructure works and speed review, proposed project timelines and provided an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback. The workshop was attended by the following organisations:

Automobile Association	Higgins
Heavy Haulage Association	Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ)
Road Transport Association	St Johns Ambulance New Zealand
Manawatu District Council	Massey University
Sport Manawatu	Greasy Chain Charitable Trust (cycle group)
Palmerston North District Council – Staff and Councillors	

Community

Community engagement took place between 23 February – 11 March 2022 with a range of methods to engage with stakeholders and the community being used. These methods included:

- Direct access to the project team via a dedicated project email address.
- Dedicated project webpage that contained an overview of the project, links to key resources, feedback forms, FAQs, and updates.
- Information booklet which provided an overview of the proposed infrastructure improvements and speed review, speed review process, updates on key milestones, ways to give feedback or access information, and details about the community drop-in session.
- Community drop-in session that provided information and opportunities for discussion.
- Media releases and social media updates.
- Social Pinpoint to gather comments. [View feedback on Social Pinpoint](#)

Summary of feedback received

The table below provides a high-level summary of the feedback received on the proposed safety improvements.

Topic	Summary of feedback	Project team response
Traffic signals at Roberts Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will provide better access on and off SH3 Napier Road - many people noted that they re-route to avoid the intersection, especially right turns onto SH3 Napier Road. Will improve pedestrian safety, especially for school children, and cyclist safety. Will support increased residential development between Roberts Line and Stoney Creek Road that will result in more traffic, pedestrians, and cyclists. Concern about the disruption to the flow of traffic, especially at peak times. Preference for a roundabout at the Roberts Line intersection. Advanced notification of approaching traffic lights / queuing vehicles needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic lights were deemed to be the best solution for the intersection of SH3 Napier Road and Roberts Line as they require less land than a roundabout to implement. Traffic lights, combined with changes to speed limits and the other infrastructure improvements will enhance safety at the intersection.
Shared path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the shared path. Requests for further improvements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the shared path to James Road or Stoney Creek Road / Whakarongo School. On-road cycle lanes to Ashhurst. Completion of the 'missing link' next to the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are looking at opportunities to work with Palmerston North City Council on extending the shared user path.
Pedestrian refuge island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the refuge island. 	
Raised safety platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to raised platforms in relatively open road environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised safety platforms were selected as they encourage people to slow down when approaching an intersection, providing a safer, slow-speed crossing space for pedestrians. Raised safety platforms are used in higher speed areas to reduce the likelihood of crashes at crossings and turns, and where people who walk or cycle are at a higher risk of being injured, such as around intersections or roundabouts.

Next steps

We have been considering the feedback we received on the improvements as we work towards finalising the detailed design.

Contact us

Waka Kotahi thanks our iwi and hapū partners, government partners, key stakeholders, and the local community for their engagement on these improvements.

To provide feedback or ask questions about the project, please get in touch with us by emailing pn2ashhurst@nzta.govt.nz.

You can visit our website for the latest information on this project: www.nzta.govt.nz/pn2ashhurst