



New Zealand Government

# briefing notes - road safety issues

## Hamilton City

New Zealand Transport Agency has prepared this eleventh road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2005-2009 period. The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Hamilton City.

All the material unless otherwise stated in this report applies to both local roads and state highways. Local roads are all non state highway roads in Hamilton City.

In March the Government released Safer Journeys the road safety strategy for the next ten years. The two following pages contain a brief introduction to the strategy and a link to find more information.

The issues chosen for this report are drawn from either the most common crash types, those that appear over-represented when Hamilton City is compared to similar local bodies or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly).

We have included a brief overview of crashes in Hamilton City and we encourage safety engaged staff at Hamilton City Council to use their free access to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS) to delve deeper into the highlighted

### Major road safety issues

#### Hamilton City

Intersections

Young drivers

### 2009 road trauma

#### Casualties

#### Hamilton City

Deaths

2

Serious casualties

59

Minor casualties

342

### National priorities from Road Safety 2020— Safer Journeys

Speed

Alcohol / drugs

Young drivers

Roads and roadsides

Motorcyclists

#### Crashes

#### Hamilton City

Fatal crashes

2

Serious injury crashes

52

Minor injury crashes

265

Non-injury crashes

893

## Safer Journeys

For the past decade road safety in New Zealand has been directed by the Road Safety 2010 strategy.

This strategy was introduced in 2003 and aimed to reduce deaths and casualties from road crashes.

In March 2010 the Government released a new strategy, "Safer Journeys", to build on the gains made under the Road Safety to 2010.

Under the new strategy, road safety will be looked at from a system wide approach rather than focusing so strongly on the road user.

The emphasis will be on improving all the parts of the road transport system that impact on safety; the road, the vehicle, travel speeds and the road user.

Under the 2020 strategy a number of priority areas have been chosen as the areas of focus.

These areas were assigned a priority, based on research that shows five major areas of concern, six areas of lesser concern, and two areas where continued focus is needed, or concern is emerging.

These divisions are shown in "Table 3" opposite. This table is a direct extract from page 12 of the Safer Journeys document which can be found at: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/saferjourneys/Documents/SaferJourneyStrategy.pdf>

To reflect the new strategy, changes to the wording and the way data is presented in these briefing notes to reflect and emphasise the connections to the new strategy. In particular, we have included more tables showing age distribution as problems with the safety of young drivers as a particular focus of Safer Journeys.

However, as these reports are based on crash data, particularly fatal and serious crashes, the actual "issues" identified by our analysis remain as before, fact based. It would be irresponsible of us to ignore an area of high social cost in a particular local body or region just because it wasn't a national priority.

We have prepared a table on the following page which shows the areas of "high concern" under Safer Journeys 2020 strategy.

This table allows some relative comparison of Safer Journeys priorities across the local bodies in the area covered by the Hamilton NZTA Office.

**Table 3 – Safer Journeys' areas of concern and the Safe System**

AREAS OF CONCERN WE WILL ADDRESS	WHERE WE WILL TAKE ACTION ACROSS THE SAFE SYSTEM			
	SAFE ROADS AND ROAD-SIDES	SAFE SPEEDS	SAFE VEHICLES	SAFE ROAD USE
<b>Areas of high concern</b>				
Reducing alcohol/drug impaired driving			✓	✓
Increasing the safety of young drivers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Safe roads and roadsides	✓			
Safe speeds	✓	✓	✓	
Increasing the safety of motorcycling	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Areas of medium concern</b>				
Improving the safety of the light vehicle fleet			✓	✓
Safe walking and cycling	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improving the safety of heavy vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reducing the impact of fatigue	✓	✓	✓	✓
Addressing distraction	✓		✓	✓
Reducing the impact of high risk drivers		✓	✓	✓
<b>Areas of continued and emerging focus</b>				
Increasing the level of restraint use			✓	✓
Increasing the safety of older New Zealanders	✓	✓	✓	✓

For some priorities (eg motorcycling), complementary action will be taken across all four areas of the Safe System. For others (eg reducing the impact of drink driving or safe roads), more effort would be focussed on one or two of the four Safe System areas.

**Table source: Ministry of Transport 2020 Safer Journeys**

## Status of the areas of “high concern” from Safer Journeys 2020 for the Waikato Region

(table below refers only to fatal and serious crashes on both local roads and state highways for the years 2005—2009 except for the “intersection” columns which also include minor crashes for reasons of sample size)

Safer Journeys area of concern	Reducing alcohol and drug impaired driving	Increase the safety of young drivers	Safer roads and roadsides			Safe speeds	Increasing the safety of motorcycling
	Measure	Percentage of fatal and serious crashes with this factor	Percentage of fatal and serious crashes with at fault drivers aged 24 years or less	Percentage of fatal and serious crashes with an object struck	Number of urban intersections with three or more injury crashes in the last five years	Number of rural intersections with three or more injury crashes in the last five years	Percentage of fatal and serious crashes where speed was a factor
Thames— Coromandel District	31	27	52	5	0	30	29
Hauraki District	25	24	51	3	2	29	18
Matamata— Piako District	25	31	46	2	6	28	17
Waikato District	25	25	53	5	15	25	18
Hamilton City	23	35	30	97	8	19	17
Waipa District	17	40	47	5	8	26	15
Otorohanga District	29	25	50	2	0	15	23
Waitomo District	21	29	65	1	0	32	14
South Waikato District	21	27	42	1	3	28	15
Taupo District	25	31	47	15	6	26	21
Waikato Region	24	30	46	136	47	26	18
New Zealand	23	34	45	1938	320	23	18

## Hamilton City overview

In 2009 on local roads in Hamilton City there were 252 injury crashes and 725 non-injury crashes. In addition on state highways in Hamilton City there were 67 injury crashes and 168 non-injury crashes. The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 319 injury crashes on local roads and state highways.

Casualties by state highway / local road 2009				
	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Local road	2	43	260	305
State highway	0	16	82	98
Total	2	59	342	403

92 percent of the crashes in Hamilton City occur on urban roads. These are roads where the speed limit is 70km/h or less.

Crash trends in Hamilton City				
Year	Fatal Crashes	Serious Crashes	Minor Crashes	Total Crashes
2000	4	44	247	295
2001	-	34	218	252
2002	3	41	242	286
2003	8	45	257	310
2004	3	33	237	273
2005	10	36	231	277
2006	6	35	254	295
2007	6	45	317	368
2008	1	57	313	371
2009	2	52	265	319

Local road crash characteristics		
Crash type or contributory cause 2005 to 2009	Percentage <b>fatal and serious</b> crashes of this type or contributory cause	Percentage <b>all injury</b> crashes of this type or contributory cause
Alcohol	23	14
Speed	19	13
Intersections	29	36
Young drivers	40	43
Wet roads	20	24

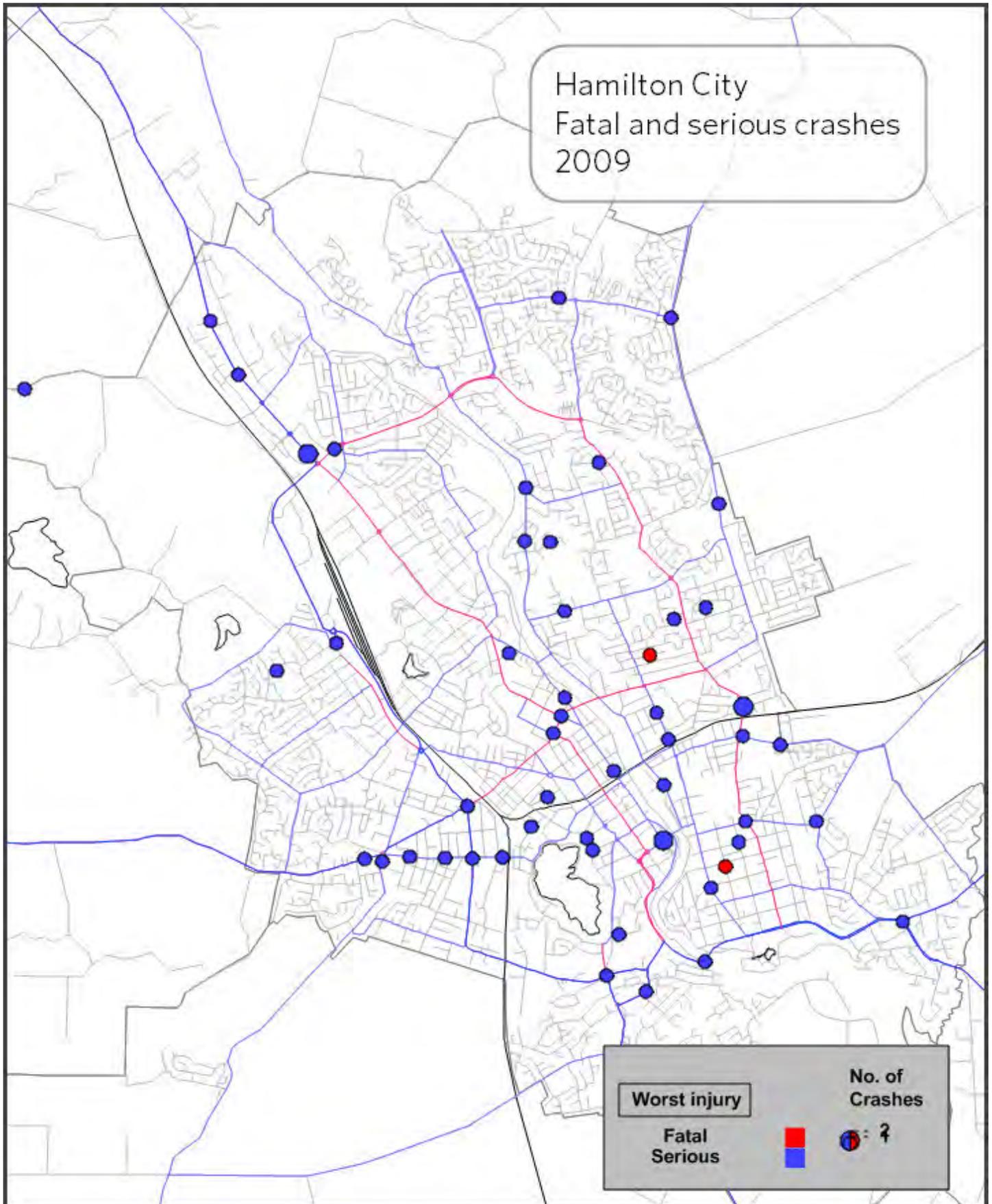
Further information about the 1343 injury and 4366 non-injury crashes on **local roads** in Hamilton City 2005 to 2009:

- 22 deaths, 205 serious and 1442 minor injuries
- Worst month May, best January
- Worst day Friday, best Sunday
- 25 percent on wet roads
- 32 percent at night
- 32 percent at intersections
- 1611 roadside objects struck \*
- Most represented five year age block in 'at fault' drivers in injury crashes: 15 to 19 years (25 percent of at fault drivers)
- Social cost of crashes in 2009 \$71.2m

Further information about the 287 injury and 961 non-injury crashes on **state highways** in Hamilton City 2005 to 2009:

- 6 deaths, 47 serious and 330 minor injuries
- Worst month June, best February & October
- Worst day Wednesday, best Sunday
- 25 percent on wet roads
- 29 percent at night
- 36 percent at intersections
- 233 roadside objects struck \*
- Most represented five year age block in 'at fault' drivers in injury crashes: 19 to 24 years (19 percent of at fault drivers)
- Social cost of crashes in 2009 \$17.5m

\* It needs to be noted that if a vehicle hits the same type of object more than once it is only counted in CAS once.



## Intersections

During the five year period 2005 to 2009 within Hamilton City there were a total of 862 injury crashes at intersections.

Injuries at Intersections (casualties)					
Injury type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fatality	4	3	2	1	1
Serious	18	14	26	33	31
Minor	160	163	231	213	190
Total	182	180	259	247	222

The most common crash type at intersections is when a driver turns right and is hit by a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction on the same road (172 crashes); with the next most common being when a driver is proceeding straight through an intersection and is hit by a vehicle approaching from a right angle (145 crashes).

Drivers at fault aged below 25 account for 42 percent of all at fault drivers.

Ages of at fault drivers in injury crashes at intersections 2005 to 2009			
Age group	Female	Male	Total
15-19	71	78	149
20-24	51	59	110
25-29	35	40	75
30-34	28	35	63
35-39	24	20	44
40-44	29	25	54
45-49	29	29	58
50-54	27	12	39
55-59	12	10	22
60-64	9	9	18
65-69	4	5	9
70-74	9	8	17
75+	12	17	29
Total	340	347	687

In Hamilton City there are 107 intersection sites which have had three or more injury crashes in the last five years, including five sites with 10 or more injury crashes in the past five years.

Locations with 9 or more injury crashes between 2005 to 2009 including at least one in 2009		
Intersection name	2005 to 2009	2009
Victoria St / Bridge St	14	4
Boundary Rd / Victoria St	13	1
Peachgrove Rd / Te Aroha St	11	1
SH 3 / Bader St	10	2
Avalon Dr / Forest Lake	10	1
Grey St / Naylor St	9	1

Further information about the 706 injury crashes at intersections on **local roads** in Hamilton City 2005 to 2009:

- 10 deaths, 102 serious and 773 minor injuries
- 30 percent wet roads
- 33 percent night time
- Worst month May, best September
- Worst day Friday, best Tuesday
- Worst three hour time period, 3pm to 6pm

Further information about the 156 injury crashes at intersections on **state highways** in Hamilton City 2005 to 2009:

- 1 death, 20 serious and 184 minor injuries
- 19 percent wet roads
- 35 percent night time
- Worst month August, best October
- Worst day Wednesday, best Sunday
- Worst three hour time period, 3pm to 6pm

## Young drivers

Young drivers are those aged less than 25 years.

In Hamilton City between 2005 and 2009, 43 percent of injury crashes involved young drivers.

The total number of injury crashes involving young drivers reduced in 2008 and 2009 from the high of 221 in 2007. The number of fatal crashes has reduced each for the past 5 years, however serious crashes have averaged around 20 per year for the same time period.

Casualties from crashes involving young drivers Hamilton City				
	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
2005	9	16	154	179
2006	7	20	157	184
2007	4	35	271	310
2008	1	22	220	243
2009	0	27	176	203
Total	21	120	978	1119

44 percent of the young drivers in these crashes had a learner or restricted licence. Nearly two thirds of them were males and 41 percent were 15-19 year olds.

Over three quarters of all the young drivers were local residents.

Young drivers at fault in injury crashes Hamilton City 2005 - 2009			
Licence type	Female	Male	Total
Full	120	219	339
Learner	44	80	124
Restricted	115	129	244
Overseas	15	12	27
Never licensed	9	20	29
Disqualified	2	11	13
Other (unknown, wrong class)	19	33	52
Total	324	504	828

## Injury crashes involving young drivers in Hamilton City 2005 - 2009 (percentage of injury crashes)

Crash type or contributory cause	All roads
Alcohol	16
Speed	16
Failed to stop/Give way	38
Poor handling	12
Poor observation	53
Lost control - straight	9
Lost control - bend	15
Rear end / obstruction	26
Crossing / turning	38

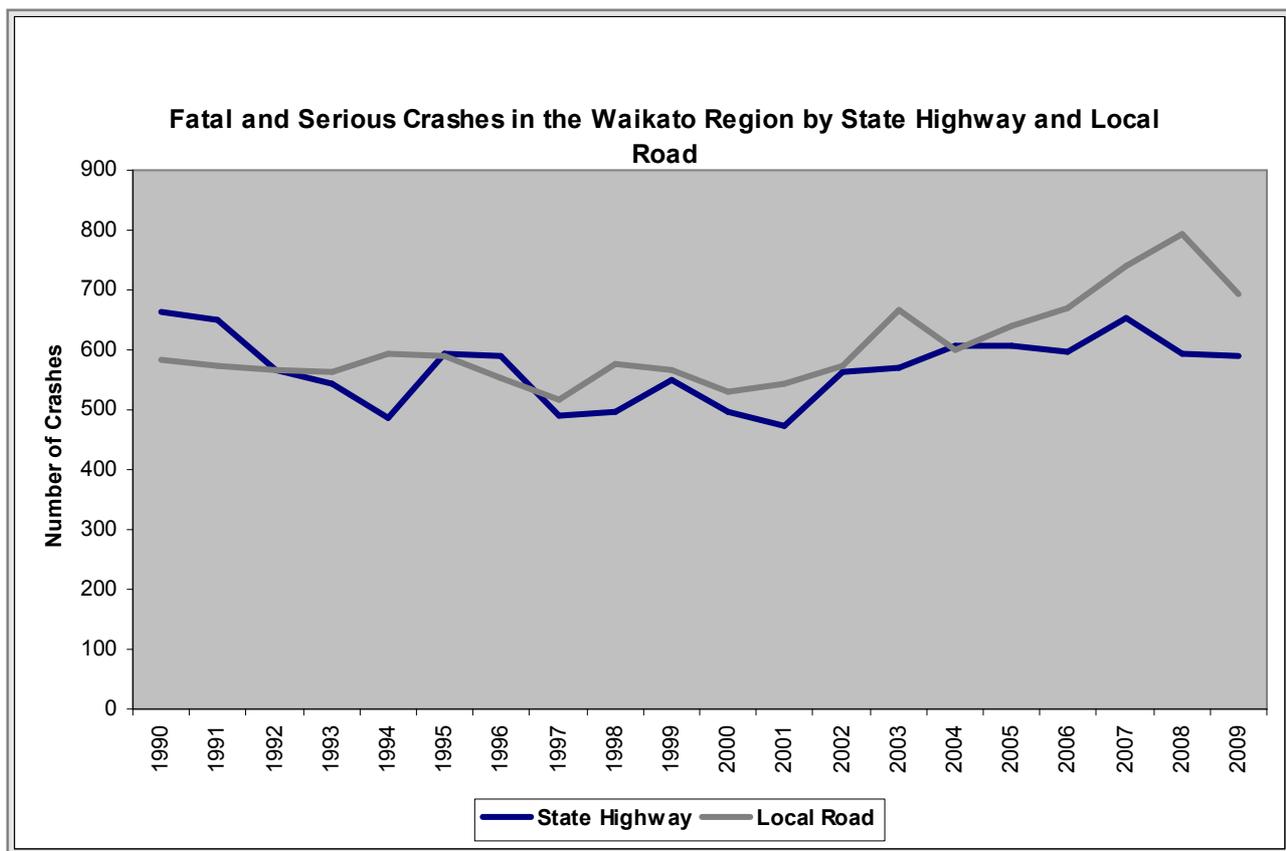
Further information about the 710 injury crashes involving young drivers on **local roads** in Hamilton City 2005 to 2009:

- 17 deaths, 101 serious 808 minor injuries
- 22 percent were single vehicle crashes
- 52 percent at intersections
- 39 percent at night
- 25 percent wet roads
- Worst month May, best January
- Worst day of week Friday, best Monday
- Worst time 3pm to 6pm

Further information about the 141 injury crashes involving young drivers on **state highways** in Hamilton City 2005 to 2009:

- 4 deaths, 19 serious 170 minor injuries
- 18 percent were single vehicle crashes
- 63 percent at intersections
- 37 percent at night
- 28 percent on wet roads
- Worst month May, best September
- Worst day of week Wednesday, best Monday
- Worst time 3pm to 6pm

## Looking back—the last two decades ...



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