

Key issues and staff responses to the Wairakei Road and Grahams Road intersection safety improvements submission feedback - Feb/Mar 2020

Key issue or suggestion	Description of issue or suggestion	Project team responses
Right turn signals	Want right turn signals to be included with the lights.	<p>The numbers of vehicles using this intersection, the number of right turns made and the number of lanes do not meet the operations policy for the introducing right turn signals.</p> <p>This proposal realigns the lanes, providing one shared straight through/left turn lane and one dedicated right turn lane at each approach. This will improve safety as the right turn lanes will be opposite each other, which will remove the masking that occurs.</p> <p>Having one shared straight through/left turn lane and a dedicated right turn lane will remove the jockeying that currently occurs at the intersection, and vehicles will no longer need to merge coming out of each exit. Installing right turn boxes in the intersection will also improve right turn safety, as right turning traffic will no longer need to wait in the flow of the straight through traffic.</p>
Extend the no stopping lines	Would like the no stopping restrictions extended further, to improve driveway access and safety around buses pulling out.	<p>We're proposing to further extend no stopping area. However, we'd like to undertake further consultation with affected property owners and residents around these changes.</p>
Not enough cyclist protection	Would like more cyclist protection provided such as separated cycle lanes, hook boxes, cyclists phase on the lights, vertical posts, extending the cycle lanes and painted cycle arrows.	<p>We investigated the options for providing additional cyclist protection and have managed to fit in an additional cycle lane on the east bound arm of Wairakei Road. Cycle hook turn boxes will also be provided.</p> <p>As this is a minor safety project, there is not the budget to provide separated cycle lanes.</p> <p>The Council has a commitment to deliver the 13 Major Cycle Routes, these will be the main separated facilities forming the backbone of Christchurch's cycle network. Wairakei Road is not designated as a Major Cycle Route however, it is identified as a secondary (connector) cycle route. The package of connector cycle routes is currently unfunded and unprogrammed, with the physical form they take yet to be decided by Council, however it's unlikely these connector routes will be fully separated, but Council will be seeking feedback on this in the future.</p>
Lane merging	Concerns were raised about there still being issues with lane merging.	<p>With the new lane layout, straight through vehicles will no longer need to merge when exiting the intersection, as there's only one lane straight through vehicles will be able to use. Cyclists and vehicles will still need to merge once the new cycle lanes finish and cyclists and vehicles will need to share the same lane.</p>
Red light runners	Concerns expressed about the proposal not fixing the issue of red light runners and requested cameras	<p>Staff noted red light running at this intersection. Red light cameras are still relatively new, however when the teething issues have been overcome, it's expected they will be used at intersections where red light running is prevalent.</p>

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Let Turn slip lanes	Concerns were expressed over the plans not addressing the danger of cyclists and pedestrian having to cross the left turn slip lanes	<p>Removing the left turn slip lanes at this intersection was investigated by staff however this would have resulted in a reconstruction of the intersection which would exceed the projects budget.</p> <p>Due to the short nature of the intersection's layout and when vehicles are stopped at the red lights, its unlikely vehicles will be able to use the slip lanes on Grahams Road. This is because the second vehicle to stop at the lights will block access to the slip lane, creating a period of increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists to cross. It is still important for pedestrians and cyclists to watch out for turning vehicles at all times.</p>