

Report No.

20-64

Information Only - No Decision Required

## ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report is to provide an update on road safety trends in the region and advise members of road safety education activities undertaken by Horizons Road Safety Coordinators over the last five months.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-64.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. No financial impact as a result of this report.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. None required.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk impact as a result of this item.

### 6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. Horizons Regional Council employs three **Road Safety Coordinators (Coordinators)** to undertake road safety education activities across all districts in the Region. The activities delivered are based on funded priorities set out by the Waka Kotahi **NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)** each year.
- 6.2. The work coordinators undertake is required by the **Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)** and gives effect to the **Government Policy Statement (GPS)**. The Coordinators' work also contributes to New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy 2020-2030, *Road to Zero*.
- 6.3. The Coordinators work with local district and city councils, Police, and local community groups to undertake road safety education and awareness activities addressing the key issues which cause crashes in their areas.

### 7. COVID19 IMPACT

- 7.1. The Coordinators' ability to carry out their activities during restrictions was significantly impacted.
- 7.2. Community face-to-face interactive activities that were planned to be undertaken between April and June have been cancelled. These activities covered such matters as, educating senior drivers, heavy vehicle drivers, drivers on distractions, road code rules, and the correct use of child restraints. Existing regular advertising campaigns such as billboard and bus backs continued with less reach due to the reduced movement of people during alert levels 3 and 4.

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- 7.3. Externally funded community education providers were impacted; with some unable to deliver scheduled activities. Some organisations are extending targets to when Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and others are exploring alternative ways of working such as online tutorials. Some may not spend all their allocated funding. Coordinators are supporting community groups to continue into the future. This includes extensions that were made to the March 27 deadline for applying for next years' (2020-21) funding.

## **8. RECENT EDUCATION FOCUS**

Recent months have seen coordinators undertake a number of initiatives. A summary of these follows.

- 8.1. Intersections: Safety around intersections remains a focus for all districts. Coordinators engaged with the public during Covid-19 through intersection quizzes in papers across the region. Reach extended outside this region with Hawkes Bay Howard League also using the quiz as a teaching resource for its driving programme.
- 8.2. Restraints: During February and March child restraint checks were carried out with Police and Plunket in the Whanganui district.
- 8.3. Older road users: Senior Driver Refresher Courses and presentations were undertaken prior to Covid-19. During Covid-19 education packs have been distributed to senior drivers as a substitute for face-to-face tuition.
- 8.4. Vulnerable road users: An increase in active transport use during Covid-19 provided an opportunity to raise awareness of key road sharing messaging. This incorporated newspaper advertisement/advertorials in addition to an existing billboard campaign as well as a focus on students returning to school under alert level 2. Support was provided with community safety concerns for a rail crossing and school entrance situation. A collaboration with community partners prior to Covid-19 with Fonterra On Yer Bike campaign.
- 8.5. Distractions: A cinema advertising campaign on texting and driving was started in March.
- 8.6. Alcohol: Coordinators collaborated with Police and Fire and Emergency NZ to hold a vehicle safety and impairment stop on SH2 leading into Wellington on Anniversary weekend in January. Coordinators had a presence at the Dannevirke A&P Show focusing on standard drink measures and providing impaired driving information to the public.

## **9. EXTERNAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME FUNDING**

- 9.1. Each year Horizons Road Safety coordinates an External Road Safety Education Fund to contract external groups to deliver road safety programmes across the region. These programmes are 100% funded by Waka Kotahi. External groups are required to contribute local share funding of 34%. In total, programmes have a value of \$200,000.00 and play a key role in supporting local community road safety initiatives. The fund is competitive and organisations are required to apply for funds to deliver a programme which is then assessed against a variety of criteria before the final allocation of funds is made.
- 9.2. For the upcoming 2020-21 financial year, the application process is currently underway with 14 applications received.
- 9.3. These applications are currently being assessed with recommendations to be discussed and confirmed with the Horizons Chair and Waka Kotahi by end June

## **10. ROAD SAFETY TRENDS**

- 10.1. While roads have been quieter with less vehicle traffic during the various Covid Levels there was still trauma on the regions roads.

**TABLE 1. Monthly Road Deaths in Manawatū/Whanganui from 1 January to 20 May**

Total during	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	2	5	5	3	0
February	4	1	1	1	4
March	2	4	3	1	4
April	0	1	3	3	1
May	3	0	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

- 10.2. Seven out of the total of ten fatalities from 1 January to 20 May 2020, were in the 16 - 24 year age group. Nine of the fatalities were male. In relation to deaths by type of user - drivers were seven, passengers one and motorcyclists two.
- 10.3. The Police representative will also be available to provide an update for the region.

## 11. SIGNIFICANCE

- 11.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

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**MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES**

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**ROAD SAFETY COORDINATOR**

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## ANNEXES

There are no attachments for this report.