

15 April 2025

TTP:0402
2025 AM: MR

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
By email to: speedmanagement@nzta.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

SUBMISSION: STATE HIGHWAY URBAN CONNECTOR SPEED REVIEW WHANGANUI

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed speed review on the SH3 Whanganui urban connector. This submission is made by transport staff for Horizons Regional Council.

Horizons' Regional Land Transport Plan outlines a 30 year vision for *"A region that connects central New Zealand and provides resilient, safe, accessible and sustainable transport options"*.

Ensuring safety of our regional transport network is a key priority of the RLTP. We encourage safe speed limit settings aligned with a safe system approach to ensure safer outcomes within our regional transport network.

Speed management is a key component of road safety and one of a number of aligned measures that work towards the goal of people getting to where they are going efficiently and safely.

It is globally recognised small reductions in mean travel speeds results in large reductions of harm. Modest speed reductions have significant potential to reduce deaths and serious injuries resulting from crashes. No matter what causes a crash, speed is always a factor in the severity of the crash outcomes.

SH3 Whanganui Urban Connector - North of Tirimoana Place to south of Turere Place

We support the proposal to re-set a lower speed of 50km/h on SH 3 Whanganui.

The reasons and evidence shared by NZTA on-line in the consultation material make a strong case for re-setting the speed limit to 50km/h and not automatically reverting to 70km/h.

The following areas are clearly outlined in the NZTA supporting documentation and support a lower speed setting:

- **Safety assessment** - noting the corridor description and changed urban environment, multiple intersections, increased traffic and range of road users,
- **Cost benefits analysis** - taking account of the minimal travel time impact of 5.2 seconds together with a projected 27% reduction in injury crashes and a low cost to implement.



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- **Previous strong community and council support** in 2019 requesting a lower the speed limit.

The automatic reversal of the SH3 section north of Tirimoana Place to south of Turere Place (urban connector) is ill-advised. Increasing this speed limit to 70km/h increases risk to all road users in this growing urban development on the outskirts of Whanganui.

The bullet points above, **align with Government Road Safety objectives** by taking a balanced and targeted approach to speed limits by considering safety, economic impacts and community views.

In summary

While we share central government's drive to increase economic growth and productivity through an efficient transport network; the reversal of the speed limit on this section of state highway will not appreciably improve economic outcomes through reducing travel times and likely have the opposite effect through increased road closures and increased social costs due to increased serious injuries and deaths.

We support the work and findings undertaken previously by NZTA and endorse the current settings that were arrived at from previous reviews, consultations, and technical assessments. As highlighted in this submission there are a range of critical factors that should inform the final speed limit setting. The government proposed automatic reversals of speed limits is poorly informed and not based on evidence.

We welcome any feedback or questions of clarification. In this instance, please contact Mark Read, Transport Services Manager on 0508 800 800 or by email at transport@horizons.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Read
TRANSPORT SERVICES MANAGER
HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL