

Presentation to TCB re Traffic issues in Taihape 11th Oct 2023

While I will keep my issues to only three I think there are other areas that need attention.

1. SH 1 pedestrian crossing from Greenstone to Wild Roses-if the phone boxes were relocated to another site then the sighting of pedestrian's would be greatly reduced for starters.
2. The southern entrance to Taihape – on the left around the 50k sign the fence has been damaged for 3 years – the grass is growing along the fenceline out to the road which means the pedestrians walking into town are being pushed on to the road to walk & apart from being scary it is a real danger.
On the right side of the road where a vehicle recently went through the fence & down the bank – there is no protection for this happening again & it is very unsightly. Surely Waka Kotahi can put up steel boundaries for the safety aspect as well as aesthetically pleasing for our town entrance. In the meantime can the Parks & Reserves team do a better job of mowing down to the 50k sign on both sides. It used to be done but seems to have fallen off the work plan.
3. I live on Huia Street & while it is a back house, my kitchen window looks out on to the street. Over the years I have watched the traffic & a few near misses but of recent times there seems to be a real increase in the foot & road traffic.

Huia street a turn off from SH1, shops, café, 2 back entrances to a super market, an area school, 3 churches, private homes, a motor bike & service centre, a farm supply business, a kohanga, 9 council flats for seniors, 3 flats for seniors, an intersection, a builders yard etc all within say 250m.

In Kokako street which feeds into Huia street, we have a similar mix of buildings & service centres such as a playcentre, squash club, TAS entrances, service club rooms & 3 sports ground entrances along the street.

During the day there is traffic servicing all these properties plus the trucks wanting to turn into New World, the farm supply trucks park in the middle of the road, gas bottle deliveries, buses coming & going, parents dropping off & picking up children, school visitors & teachers to & fro & increased truck movements.

That's a pretty busy picture. ADD the demolition of the school next year, the building of the temporary school at the south end of the park & there will be

trucks, heavy equipment, service vehicles, consultants, engineers, workers all coming & going & needing to park somewhere.

SO, how can traffic movements be safer?

Huia Street has one flat pedestrian crossing by the school with orange signs not lit. Signage on power poles constantly getting demolished by high vehicles (campervans, trucks) parking too close plus blocking the vision of the signs. At the moment there is a picture of a pedestrian crossing with a school sign underneath (one of several in the last few years). I am timing its destruction! Outside the St Davids church hall there is a picture of 2 children on the power pole (second one in 6 months).

On Kokako Street there is a flat pedestrian crossing with orange signs not lit & a school sign on the power pole outside house No. 19? If you don't move quickly on this pedestrian crossing you may well get a hurryup from a vehicle driving over the hill when the driver sights you at the last minute. There is very little indication that drivers are aware that the speed limit around schools is 40kph.

When the new temporary school is being built & in use there will be a heap of traffic at the southern end of Kokako Street. More congestion & in that parking space adjacent to the amenities block/Kokako Street pavilion there will be further congestion with school traffic, visitors & truckies. Incidentally in that corner there a really rough patch of road.

Kokako street incidentally is also used by the army stopping for a break & many overnight trucks.

Considering all of the above I would like to know if the council have given any consideration for this area & if so, is there any consultation with the residents & users for their feedback?

I believe RDC consultation with locals is important & essential.

On numerous trips out of town I see & have photographed schools in other areas that have so mang warning signs on poles & on the roads & mostly raised pedestrian crossings. I would like to ask that this sort of raised crossings be given a priority & as soon as possible.

Taihape is changing drastically with locals having to deal with many aspects of inconvenience. Please, I ask that you take our concerns seriously & urgently.