

Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee Minutes



Date: 3 December 2024
Venue: Wakanui Room, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton
Time: 9:30am

1 Welcome and Apologies

That apologies for absence be received from Lucy Mehrstens (Road Safety – South Canterbury), Chris Chambers (Waka Kotahi), Stephen Burgerhout (NZ Police), John Skevington (Automobile Association) and Steve Ochsner (FENZ)

Richard Wilson/Jesse Shearer

Carried

Present:

Neil Brown	Mayor	James Long	Waka Kotahi
Liz McMillan	ADC Deputy Mayor (Chair)	Jesse Shearer	FENZ
Phill Hooper	ADC Councillor	Andrae Gold	ACADS
Richard Wilson	ADC Councillor	Shane Cochrane	NZ Police
Jim Crouchley	Ia Ara Aotearoa/Transporting NZ	Neil Simons	Principal Association

In attendance:

Mark Chamberlain	Roading Manager	Carol McAtamney	Governance Support Officer
Georgie Wilson	Road and Safety Technician		

2 Notification of Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

It was noted that Chris Chambers from Waka Kotahi was present at the meeting and not Craig Chambers as stated.

That the minutes of the Ashburton District Road Safety Coordinating Committee meeting held on 3 September 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Neil Simons/Phill Hooper

Carried

4 Correspondence

Nil.

5 Reports/Agency Updates

5.1 Ashburton District Road Safety

- Road Safety representatives from Ashburton, Timaru, Selwyn and Hurunui District Councils are to attend the Kirwee field days with an aim to promote the 20km speed limit when passing school buses.
- Contact also to be made with bus companies to promote the reinstatement of the 20km flashing speed limit signs at the rear of stopping school buses.
- Additional signage to be placed in the library to increase the awareness of the CoDriVr usage.

5.2 Rumble Strip Report

A trial of the effectiveness of rumble strips providing an additional warning to drivers that an intersection ahead was undertaken. Results of the trial were presented to the Committee.

5.3 Waka Kotahi/NZTA

- Members expressed their disappointment with the poor quality of the repairs that have been undertaken on State Highway 1 south through Tinwald. The same repairs have been undertaken three times and are still of a poor quality.
- Methven highway/SH77 road works – there have been traffic light stops on the highway for months, even when works are not being carried out. It was questioned as to whether these can be removed when there is no work being undertaken. Advised that it depends on the complexity of the site and whether it can be made safe to remove the stops/delays.

5.4 Safer Mid Canterbury

- Has established a legal entity to enable the Trust to apply for funding for the construction of the bike skills park.
- Hope to bring completed design of the park back to March road safety meeting.

5.5 ACADS

- Summer road safety merchandise/promotion is to be launched within the next two weeks through to March 2025.
- It was noted that this will be Andrae's last meeting. The Chair extended thanks and appreciation to Andrae for her service and commitment.

5.6 la Ara Aotearoa/Transporting NZ

- Continue to express concerns with the design of the NZTA north bound weighbridge facility from a safety perspective
- Traffic build up in Tinwald is affecting truck drivers who are finding it difficult to manage drivers hours and the potential animal welfare issues through 'heat stress' particularly during the summer months. Drivers can face wait times of up to 45 minutes to get through Ashburton on many occasions.
- Suggestion of potentially closing the Melcombe Street crossing during peak times.
- It was noted that it is difficult to stop people driving down a road that they are legally entitled to drive down.

5.7 FENZ

- A report detailing road incident statistics was tabled and worked through.
- Also advised issues with response times due to State Highway 1 traffic congestion.

It was suggested that both FENZ and la Ara Aotearoa write to the Minister of Transport, Simeon Brown, outlining the issues that both organisations and their members are facing.

A request was made for statistics on how often the traffic light systems on State Highway 1 are overridden to improve traffic flow (NZTA to provide).

Post meeting note

The traffic signals through the Tinwald and Ashburton corridor are set to automatically adjust the signals timings based on the time of day / traffic levels and queues using a SCATS system. Typically,

these settings are not overridden by the WTOC team unless there are unusually high levels of congestion or planned events such as Wings over Wanaka, concerts in Dunedin and so on.

5.8 NZ Police

- A 24 operation at the weigh station resulted in one truck driver failing a breath test.

5.9 Principals Association

- It was advised that Council is currently waiting for certification to enable installation of variable school speed limit signs. It is anticipated that this will come through towards the end of December.
- ADC will undertake comms once they are installed.

6 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 9.30am.

The meeting closed at 10.46am.