

Roger McLeay  
Transit New Zealand  
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**WANGANUI**

2.2.08

Dear Roger,

### **SH57 SHARE THE ROAD AND PW35 SIGNAGE**

With reference to our earlier email correspondence on the above issue, Palmerston North City Council requests Transit to implement four PW35 signs at the locations indicated on the attached maps and detailed in proposal #1 below. Additional signage proposals #2 and #3 are included for your consideration as the road controlling authority. If approved, these additional signs would be erected at local organisation cost by Palmerston North City Council sign contractors to the relevant highway standard.

#### **ISSUE AND BACKGROUND**

SH57 is the only continuous road to cycle on in the rapidly growing Aokautere area, and given more driver courtesy could make a reasonably good commuter route for those who would like to cycle in from Ashhurst. Anecdotal feedback indicates that commuters use the wider SH3 only because of poor driver behaviour on SH57. Development in Ashhurst has taken off, and many of these new residents will be using SH57 as motorists or on a bike.

The road features great scenery and with low traffic volumes it is far quieter compared to the incessant deafening roar of passing trucks on SH3. Unfortunately, while most motorists are quite courteous, I have ridden SH57 about 40 times in the last 3 years and been passed uncomfortably close on nearly every occasion by at least one driver trying to make a point. Amazingly, there is often no oncoming traffic and plenty of road width for the overtaking driver to give the cyclist room. During investigations for the implementation of this signage, supplied Transit interdepartmental correspondence contained a comment that: "I am a little concerned at the phase in the letter to you alleging "aggressive behaviour", unless the driver of the vehicle was interviewed, their reasoning and motives could not be known..." It should be noted that it is quite easy to discern a driver's motives and reasoning when they are flipping you off in their rearview mirror or standing on their horns.

There is also a corollary benefit to other road users- farms line the road and an equestrian centre is located near Forest Hill Road. Interviews with equestrians and the Chief Equine Surgeon at Massey University indicate that there is widespread dismay about unsafe passing distances.

#### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation on this proposal includes:

- Road Safe Central coordinator at Horizons Regional Council
- Concerned residents, equestrians, and cyclists
- Marist recreational cycling club
- Cycle Aware Palmerston North (CAPN) transport cycle advocacy group

## PROPOSAL

The issue is likely to be positively affected should three types of signage from educational to reminder in nature be implemented at strategic points (see attached map):

1. **Standard permanent warning signs** installed prior to blind spots and curves. Fluorescent yellow cyclist (MOTSAM Standard PW35) signs to be installed at key points which have been GPS mapped (attached). Cost has been estimated by PNCC signs manager at \$275.60 per sign and pole for a total of \$1102.40 +GST. *Transit approval and implementation.*

**PW35 Permanent Warning Sign**



2. **Share the road signs:** these smaller signs with the 1.5m recommendation represented in symbols rather than text installed at points where driver attention is not being competed for by the road geometry or side friction such as driveways. Four such signs are proposed to be installed and paid for by Palmerston North City Council with Transit approval. A request to install additional “share the road” signs along the Gorge on SH3 has also been received from CAPN. *Please approve or comment.*

**Example Share the Road sign**



3. **A “Don’t Burst their Bubble” campaign style billboard** at the Gorge end of the route with a Share the Road type message. A key piece of information is the 1.5m ideal passing distance from the NZ Road Code. Organisational responsibility, design and implementation of the billboard is yet to be finalised. *Please approve or comment.*

Yours sincerely



John Lieswyn  
TRANSPORT PLANNER

## REFERENCES

Tauranga- not only the following link and referenced research, but also the presence of City sponsored signage on popular recreational cycling rural roads such as the one to the Mount. I am seeking a digital photo of this sign, and at them moment have only found the following online:

<http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/road-user-safety/walking-and-cycling/share-the-road/project-examples/share-tauranga.html>



Taupo

popular "intown" rural road training routes have a sign and pole which is not MOTSAM standard. It has a picture of a cyclist and motorists with 1.5m between arrows.

Waimakariri- newspaper adverts

<http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/road-user-safety/walking-and-cycling/share-the-road/project-examples/bubble-waimakariri.html>



From the NZ road code-

- Hazards like parked cars, potholes, glass, litter and opening car doors may cause cyclists to veer off-line and move into your path. Because of this, give cyclists plenty of room when passing them. Ideally, allow at least 1.5 metres between you and the cyclist.
- Wait for a clear space before passing a cyclist on a narrow road.

<http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/roadcode/about-other-road-users/sharing-road-with-cyclists.html>

