
REPORT 3
(1215/52/IM)

PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION: TINAKORI ROAD SHOPPING AREA, THORNDON

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the Committee's agreement to recommend to Council that it approves lowering the speed limit on part of Tinakori Road, Thorndon from 50km/h to 30km/h.

2. Executive Summary

For a number of years there have been requests from local residents, Thorndon businesses, Thorndon Residents' Association and the Police for a reduction in the speed limit through the Tinakori Road shopping area.

The public consultation carried out in August 2009 showed strong support for the proposed speed limit reduction, which is now recommended to the Committee.

Two of our key stakeholders, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and the New Zealand Police also gave strong support for lowering the speed limit to 30km/h subject to appropriate gateway treatments at the start and end of the 30km/h speed zone to acknowledge the change in environment.

The proposed speed limit reduction complies with the criteria specified in the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003).

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Recommend to Council that it make a resolution under Clause 6 of the Wellington City Consolidated Bylaw to set the speed limit as stated in the table below on the following section of Tinakori Road, Thorndon.*

Table 1: Proposed speed limit for Tinakori Road

Tinakori Road Shopping Area	<i>Tinakori Road from its intersection with Upton Terrace to its intersection with Lewisville Terrace</i>	30km/h
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3. *Note the results of the public consultation process: i.e, 186 submissions were received for Tinakori Road of which 142 supported the proposal, 20 agreed to lower limits but would like to see the area extended; 2 agreed with lowering the limit but only to 40km/h and 24 opposed the lower speed limit.*
4. *Note that the process to change a speed limit as described in both the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003) and Part 6 (Speed Limits) of the Wellington City Consolidated Bylaw, has been followed.*
5. *Note that in accordance with the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003) and Part 6 (Speed Limits) of the Wellington City Consolidated Bylaw, the resolution will be recorded in the Register of Speed Limits and the relevant speed limits on the Councils Speed Limit Plans cease to have effect.*

4. Background

4.1 Setting speed limits

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003) allows road controlling authorities to set enforceable speed limits, including permanent speed limits less than 50km/h, on roads within their jurisdiction.

The speed limit bylaw allows the Council to make amendments to speed limits by way of resolution on all roads under its control and in certain designated locations specified in the Bylaw.

Approval to consult on lowering the speed limit in Tinakori Road was given at the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 11 June 2009.

4.2 Process

The process to change speed limits is defined in the Rule and Part 6 of the Bylaw. In summary, the process requires the following:

- A review of the areas to determine the suitability of the proposed speed limits.
- Consultation with affected parties and stakeholders.
- Formal adoption by the road controlling authority and notification of the changes before the new limit takes effect.
- Notification of the changes before the new limit takes effect.

4.3 Traffic surveying

Traffic surveys were carried out through the Tinakori Road shopping area (as shown in Table 2 below) in April 2009. The recorded traffic volumes and speed data will be used to determine the success of the proposed measures in reducing traffic speed.

Table 2: Traffic volumes and speed data on Tinakori Road.

Tinakori Road shopping area	Total weekly volume	7 day average AADT	85 th Percentile Speed	Mean Speed
	84,793	12,113	43km/h	34km/h

The mean speed through the Tinakori Road shopping area is 34km/h. The proposal is to reinforce these low speeds by reducing the legal speed limit from 50km/h to 30km/h. The appropriate education, enforcement and engineering measures will be required to coincide with any change to the current speed limit.

4.4 Tinakori Road – inappropriate speed

Tinakori Road shopping area presents a range of challenges for all road users. Shoppers are crossing the road at various points, parked vehicles are allowed on both sides of the road where pedestrians might suddenly appear, delivery vehicles servicing the businesses, cyclists on a key route, at risk pedestrians such as children and elderly. All this is happening in a very narrow confined road carriageway width.

It is especially important that drivers take all necessary care to ensure both they, and other more vulnerable road users are safe. This is not always the case in part because of the current permitted speed limit.

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003) allows for limits less than 50km/h to be set provided that the observed mean speed of passing vehicles is within 5km/h of the proposed speed limit. In shopping areas where speeds are currently higher than 35km/h we will look at gateway treatments to bring speeds down to an appropriate level. We are conscious that the local business community have made it clear to us that they value the availability of parking in the area and any gateway treatment should not be at the detriment of the loss of any on street parking in this location.

Although it might be argued that current speeds in these areas are already low enough, bringing the legal limit down to 30km/h will reduce the severity and incidence of crashes with little effect on travel time and therefore inconvenience for most drivers.

5.5 Consultation

Public consultation was carried out in accordance with clause 7.1 of the Setting of Speed Limits Rule. A four week period of community consultation was carried out during August 2009 about Councils proposal to lower the speed limit. A summary of the submissions received is outlined below. From the 186 submissions we received, the majority support the proposed 30km/h speed limit.

Copies of all public submissions are included in Appendix 2.

Do you agree with the entire proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30km/h?	Yes	Yes, but extend the proposed section	Yes, but to 40km/h	Disagree
Tinakori Road	142	20	2	22

Please note:

- **Yes** = Submitters agreed with the entire proposal and believe the speed limit should be reduced to 30km/h.
- **Yes, but extend the proposed section** = Submitters agreed with the proposal but wanted the speed limit to be extended, this was especially prevalent in extending it to Hill Street.
- **Yes, but to 40km/h** = Submitters agreed with lowering the speed limit but only to 40km/h, not the proposed 30km/h.
- **Disagree** = Submitters were against the entire proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30km/h.

The results demonstrate strong community support for the proposed changes.

Submitters were also given an opportunity to have their submission heard and eight chose to do so. Submissions were presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee on Tuesday 15th September 2009:

- 1) Mike Mellor representing Living Streets Wellington
- 2) Sir Michael Fowler who spoke as a resident of Thorndon
- 3) Peter Isaac who spoke as a resident of Thorndon
- 4) Paula Warren who spoke as a resident of Kelburn
- 5) Sally King who spoke as a resident of Thorndon
- 6) Julian Boorman representing Cycle Aware Wellington
- 7) Senior Sergeant Richard Hocken representing Wellington Central Police Station
- 8) Alex Gray representing the Automobile Association.

Seven of the eight oral submitters were in support of lowering the speed limit to 30km/h.

Mike Mellor supports the speed limit being lowered to 30km/h and would like to see Council go further and develop it into a shared space.

Sir Michael Fowler spoke in support of the lower speed limit and believes this is an excellent idea.

Peter Isaac supports the speed limit being lowered to 30km/h and believes this will create a safer environment for all road users.

Paula Warren thinks that this is a great proposal. She suggested it should also include kerb extensions to change the feel of the shopping area.

Sally King supports lowering the speed limit to 30km/h but feels perplexed it is only for a stretch of 170 metres. The problematic area spreads further from the Botanical Gardens to the park. She feels lowering the speed limit will even out vehicle speeds and this will be helpful due to the fact there is a large number of elderly and young children in the area.

Julian Boorman supports lowering the speed limit to 30km/h as this will enhance safety for all road users; currently there is no room for error cycling through this area.

Senior Sergeant Richard Hocken supports lowering the speed limit to 30km/h subject to there being appropriate gateway treatments implemented.

Alex Gray is not in support of lowering the speed limit to 30km/h. He feels the environment doesn't fit such a low limit and would be in favour of lowering it to 40km/h subject to appropriate gateway treatments to acknowledge the change in environment.

All 142 submitters who agreed with the entire proposal felt that the proposed speed would create a much safer environment for all road users.

There were 20 submitters who agreed with lowering the speed limit but would like to see it extended further than what we are proposing.

There were two submitters who agreed with lowering the speed limit but thought that 30km/h was going too far and that 40km/h would be more appropriate.

The 22 submitters who objected to the proposal had a number of reasons. A common theme was that the new limit would be impossible to enforce and that most drivers already currently drive to the conditions. It was also expressed that the few that already speed will not change their driving behaviour anyway. Others felt that the reduction was not necessary and that more driver education is required.

In addition to the public consultation, Council is required to consult with the stakeholders and this was undertaken during August 2009. As a result,

responses were received from the New Zealand Police, Automobile Association and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

The New Zealand Police are in support of the proposed lower speed limit as long as it is implemented with consistent gateway treatments to acknowledge the change of environment.

The AA is not in support of the proposed lower speed limit through here as there is a low pedestrian accident record and they don't see 30km/h through the shopping area as being appropriate for Tinakori Road with regard to its current function, nature and its surrounding environment. They advised they would support a 40km/h speed limit with appropriate gateway treatments.

NZTA supports lowering the speed limit to 30km/h and believes this should be backed up with coloured pavement markings to mark the start and end of the lower speed zone.

Officers do not believe the objections received would justify not proceeding with the proposed speed limit changes.

5.6 Implementation

Subsequent to approval by Council, there are a number of procedural requirements to be followed before the new speed limit can be introduced. Before the speed limit takes effect, the Council must notify the Director of NZTA and the Commissioner of Police.

A public awareness campaign explaining the change to the limits will also take place. Areas where the Bylaw speed limit applies are required to be marked by notices and signs in accordance with the requirements of clause 6.3.7 of the Bylaw and as required by the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003)

These requirements are expected to take approximately six weeks once the Council has resolved to change the speed limits under the Bylaw, and the new speed limit is expected to be operative by the end of January 2010.

The speed limits will continue to be enforced by the Police.

6. Conclusion

The benefit of lowering the speed of vehicles through the Tinakori Road shopping area is to significantly improve pedestrian safety and encourage more active modes of transport such as walking and cycling.

The process for setting speed limits is defined in the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (2003), and in the Councils Bylaw: Part 14 (Speed Limits). This process has been followed throughout. The proposed speed limits satisfy the criteria set by the Rule.

Approval of the speed limits as described in Table 1 will assist NZTA in evaluating the speed zoning criteria.

Lowering the speed limit acknowledges the long standing concerns of the local communities.

The Committee is therefore requested to agree to recommend to Council that it approve with the proposed changes to the legal speed limit through the Tinakori Road shopping area as detailed in the recommendations.

Contact Officer: *Stuart Bullen Senior Traffic Engineer.*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The project supports the overall goal that Wellington will seek to improve the safety and security of its citizens as they move around the city and region.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The project is contained in the Council Plan # CX445.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no direct treaty considerations

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision. The consultation process showed that the majority of respondents were in favour of reducing speed limits

5) Consultation

There is a formal consultation process which was carried out for this project.

6) Legal Implications

Changing a speed limit has significant legal implications for motorists. Consequently the Council is required to carry out a rigorous procedure to change a speed limit.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing WCC policy