

Chairperson and Community Board Members
ŌTAKI COMMUNITY BOARD

23 APRIL 2013

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**INSTALLATION OF SCHOOL AND PUBLIC BUS STOP ON
MILL ROAD ŌTAKI**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks the Board's approval for the installation of a double bay school and public bus stop outside 224 and 226 Mill Road Otaki.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 The recommendations in this report do not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Ōtaki Police, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Council officers have concerns about the current bus stop outside 234 Mill Road, Ōtaki due to stopped buses obscuring pedestrians at the Ōtaki College pedestrian crossing (see Attachment 1).
- 4 A driver travelling west only becomes aware that there is a pedestrian on the crossing when they walk out from behind the bus. Drivers then have very little time to react, brake and stop.
- 5 Another identified risk is the width of the road at this point on Mill Road, as a parked bus blocks the cycle lane; cyclists then have to exit the protection of the cycle lane and join the traffic flow within the carriageway to pass the bus.
- 6 The current bus stop is also sited too close to the Millhaven and Mill Road intersection obscuring the vision of drivers trying to exit Millhaven Road.
- 7 Ōtaki College has made a request to have their school buses use the bus stops on Mill Road to alleviate the following risks within the College grounds:
 - The buses driving along the College driveway come into conflict with student pedestrians, scooters and cyclists as they enter and leave the college grounds at morning arrival and afternoon departure times.
 - The risks to students with buses turning in the College quadrangle, which is a high use pedestrian area.
 - These safety issues have been further aggravated by the new classroom developments at the College which no longer allow the buses to make a complete U-turn. The buses now need to reverse to complete their turn which places students walking behind the bus at risk of being injured.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 8 The site has been assessed by the Kāpiti Coast District Council Senior Engineer and the Senior Asset Advisor, Bus and Ferry Operations GWRC, and the recommendation is for the current bus stop outside 234 Mill Road be moved some 40 metres to outside 224 and 226 Mill Road, Ōtaki (see Attachment 2).
- 9 At school drop-off and pick-up time, there is an overlap of the public bus service and the arrival and departure of the school bus. To accommodate this shared need a double bay bus stop has been recommended.
- 10 A bus stop outside 224 and 226 Mill Road sits inside the Mill Road cycle lane and therefore does not impede cyclists. At over 20 metres from the pedestrian crossing it does not obscure vision of the pedestrian crossing for either drivers or for pedestrians.
- 11 The bus stop will move some 40 metres west of the existing location. This is not considered by GWRC staff to be a distance that will create any inconvenience for bus patrons.
- 12 A consultation letter was sent to the property owners/residents who live adjacent to the proposed bus stop on 1 February 2013. Feedback was received from the owner of 224 Mill Road, and, although supportive of the bus stop, requested that the bus stop markings go right to his driveway, preventing a car trying to squeeze in behind the bus stop and therefore blocking his driveway. No other feedback was received from residents or property owners.
- 13 There have been a number of meetings between members of the Ōtaki College Board of Trustees, College staff and Council staff to assess the best options in regards to student safety and the placement of bus stops. It has been agreed that the best option for the health and safety of students is for the school bus stops to be moved from within the College grounds to Mill Road.
- 14 Ōtaki College has committed to building a shelter in the College grounds where students will wait for the bus to arrive. They will then proceed to cross the pedestrian crossing and get on the bus.

Financial Considerations

- 15 There are no financial considerations.

Legal Considerations

- 16 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

- 17 The Community Board has: *“Authority to approve or reject officer recommendations relating to all traffic control and signage matters, in relation to existing local roads within the community board’s area, except for changes to speed restrictions on local roads. (The latter power has been delegated to the Regulatory Management Committee.)”*

Consultation

- 18 Ōtaki College has been in an ongoing consultation with the Council over the best options for the College buses. The GWRC has been consulted and has been involved in both bus route and site assessments. Notices have been sent to all the affected residents and due to feedback received modifications to the length of the double bay bus stop have been made. The only feedback received supported the installation of the double bay bus stop.

Policy Implications

- 19 There are no policy implications.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 20 There are no tāngata whenua considerations.

Publicity Considerations

- 21 Bus users will be notified of the changes to the siting of the bus stop prior to the bus stop relocation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 22 That the Ōtaki Community Board approves the installation of a double bay school and public bus stop outside 224 and 226 Mill Road, Ōtaki.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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Group Manager Infrastructure Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed new bus stop outside 224 and 226 Mill Road, Ōtaki.