

Chairperson and Community Board Members
PARAPARAUMU/RAUMATI COMMUNITY BOARD

1 MAY 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON
BLUEGUM ROAD, PARAPARAUMU**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks approval for the installation of traffic calming measures along Bluegum Road and Rua Road from Ocean Road to Seaview Road as shown on attachments 1 and 2.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 This report does not trigger the council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The residents of Bluegum Road have approached council officers and the Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board regarding the increase in vehicle speeds and traffic volumes along Bluegum Road. The residents believe that this is due to vehicles using Bluegum Road as a bypass since the introduction of a 30kph speed restriction along Marine Parade and the increased traffic due to the additional flights from Kapiti Coast Airport.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 4 Bluegum Road is a residential street that provides an alternative route from Kapiti Road to Marine Parade. The road runs parallel to both Seaview Road and Marine Parade. The Kapiti Coast Airport entrance is located along Toru Road, off Bluegum Road. The airport management's preferred route for customers driving to the airport from State Highway One is down Kapiti Road, along Ocean Road, then onto Bluegum Road to Toru Road. The southern section of Bluegum Road/Rua Road, between Toru Road and Seaview Road, has existing coloured road surface entry treatments at both ends. See Attachment 1.
- 5 The posted speed limit is 50kph, which is deemed an appropriate maximum speed for this type of road. Lowering the speed limit to 30kph could increase driver frustration, given the long length and open 'feel' of the road, making it unlikely that the speed limit will be respected.
- 6 In order to encourage drivers to keep to the 50kph speed limit it is proposed to install a series of rubber speed cushions at six locations along Bluegum Road/Rua Road between Ocean Road and Seaview Road. See attachments 1 and 2.

- 7 The proposed traffic calming devices consist of two or three (depending on the road width) pre-formed rubber cushions narrow enough for vehicles to pass over them at 50kph with negligible effect. In order to negotiate the cushions, drivers need to correctly align their vehicles with the devices, encouraging a reduction in their speed. The cushions are placed in such a way to allow buses, heavy goods vehicles and emergency services vehicles to drive over them without any contact.
- 8 These devices are used internationally to encourage lower vehicle speeds without punishing drivers complying with the posted speed limit or making bus journeys uncomfortable for the passengers and driver. This method of traffic calming does not compromise cycle safety, as the cushions are placed a sufficient distance from the channel to allow cyclists to pass by them without hindrance. A cross-section of the proposed traffic calming cushion arrangement is shown as an inset on attachment 2. A photograph of a similar rubber speed cushion arrangement is enclosed as attachment 3.
- 9 The coloured road surfacing on Rua Road, to the east of Seaview Road, and on Bluegum Road, to the south of Toru Road, will be duplicated on the other section of Bluegum Road, north of Toru Road and south of Ocean Road. These will form 'gateway' features with the intention of alerting drivers as they enter the traffic calmed area. See attachment 2.

Financial Considerations

- 10 The estimated cost of the providing the speed cushions and associated works is \$59,500. These costs will be borne from the Council's minor improvements budget 2011/2012.

Legal Considerations

- 11 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

- 12 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

- 13 On 5 April Council received a petition from residents of Bluegum Road supporting the calming measures. A letter, with drawings, advising the affected residents along Bluegum Road and Rua Road of the proposed works has been sent out. No other consultation is proposed.

Publicity Considerations

- 14 The public will be notified prior to works commencing on site and again once the improvements are complete.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15 That the Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board approves the installation of rubber speed cushion traffic calming devices and associated works along Bluegum Road/Rua Road between Ocean Road and Seaview Road, Paraparaumu; as shown on attachments 1 and 2 of report IS-12-533.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Darren Price
Road Network Engineer

Sean Mallon
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1- Drawing Number C012-901A Bluegum Road, Paraparaumu
Beach Traffic Calming Measures Proposed Layout Plan 1 of 2.

Attachment 2- Drawing Number C012-902A Bluegum Road, Paraparaumu
Beach Traffic Calming Measures Proposed Layout Plan 2 of 2.

Attachment 3- Photograph showing rubber speed cushion arrangement similar to that proposed.