

## Gore District Council

### Submission to Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plans

### Mataura Intersection Improvement

Thanks for the opportunity to discuss our Council's concerns around intersection at SH1 and SH93 especially the real safety issue around the stacking distance for larger vehicles exiting Bridge St.

We believe it is of higher importance than what the document currently presents.

The Mataura Intersection Improvement project at SH1 and SH93 (Appendix 1, page 118) has been identified as a low risk/low cost project given the associated funding levels.

The current situation presents key safety concerns on a regionally strategic intersection (freight movements), which also has a direct effects on rail safety.

The improvement works to this intersection have support from the local community, NZTA and KiwiRail, given the existing safety issues/risk.

Therefore, while we understand the change from an improvement activity to a low risk/low cost project has been made based mainly on financial criteria there remains a real accident risk.

Our concern is that this intersection project is lost and needs to be elevated and given some priority, the community have been waiting now for over six years, and want to see some action before there is an accident.

#### Mataura Community Board – Alan Taylor

- Have general concerns about the number of heavy vehicles and their speed along Pioneer Highway, recently they have completed a beautification project which has had a noticeable calming effect on traffic.
- There are property's across from this intersection that are about to be cleared, the owner is motivated to explore how this land could be used to create a better outcome.

#### Road Transport Association NZ - Alan Cooper

- Also note the increase in the number of heavy vehicles using this intersection. He is regularly speaking to trucking firms around the use of this intersection.  
At the moment trucks are avoiding the crossing by heading south then making a 'U' turn or taking a detour around the backstreets past a local school, neither are desirable.

#### Kiwi Rail

- Have carried out a "Level Crossing Risk Assessment Report" on this intersection and rank it as medium to high risk. They are also looking at ways that a better outcome can be achieved here.
- While grade separation is the desired fix for these types of crossing they are forced to look at a more reasonable approach's.
- Accident – wed/Thursday last week.

We believe action is needed for these reasons;

- **Safety** – the very real risk of a serious collision that this intersection presents, two intersecting State Highways and a main trunk line.

- **Amenity**- the activity the existing layout is promoting is not in keeping with an efficient transportation network- vehicle needing to make awkward manoeuvres or unwarranted bypasses past community spaces.
- **Enforcement**- as it stands there is confusion with the right turn rule the signage and the existing markings.

We ask for your assurance that these improvement works take a greater priority in the 2015 -2021 plan with a set time frame for its commencement/completion within this period.

Failure to act will inevitably increase the risk of a serious accident at this intersection.

