

STAFF REPORT

To: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
From: Road Safety Coordinator, Kirsty Barr
Reference: R878
Date: 20 September 2005
Subject: Road Safety Coordinator's Report

PURPOSE

To report on Land Transport NZ's Road Safety Issues report and to update the Committee on work carried out by TDC's Road Safety Coordinator.

ROAD SAFETY ISSUES REPORT

Land Transport NZ recently released their annual road safety issues report for the Tasman District (see attached). This summarises crash statistics for 2004 and helps to give road safety partners guidance on the patterns and problems that are particular to our local area.

To highlight some of the issues:

- Number of deaths – these are approximately the same as last year (7 in 2003 down to 6 for 2004)
- Serious casualties – significant decrease (61 in 2003 and 35 in 2004)
- Minor casualties – also decreased (139 in 2003, 119 in 2004)
- For 2004, a greater proportion of the people involved in crashes are drivers themselves (as opposed to 2003 having a higher proportion of car passengers/other road users)
- Main issues for our district still include:
 - loss of control on bends,
 - intersections (lack of observation/failure to give way)
 - *cyclists.
 - *Pedestrians feature this year as a significant road safety issue: Crash statistics involving pedestrians have shown an upward trend in the past five years, the majority being urban (see road safety issues report for more details).
- Motorcyclists are road users who have historically appeared on Tasman District's road safety issues reports, although the number of crashes is taking a slightly downward trend lately. It's worth noting that when a motorcyclist is involved in a crash there is a 60% chance of a serious injury/fatality. No other road user has such a high risk and this demonstrates just how vulnerable motorcyclists can be.

*(*Note: because we have relatively small numbers when it comes to cycle/pedestrian crashes/incidents, any slight increase in the number of crashes can result in large percentage increases.)*

When looking at road safety issues or the problems facing vulnerable road users, education for the general driving public is very important. Local projects can also help by targeting specific groups to raise awareness or to provide a 'toolkit' to help prevent certain users getting into dangerous situations (eg cyclists, motorcyclists). Some of the projects in the Tasman District for 2005/2006 include:

a) Motorcyclists

Training Workshop in September 2005 - Two one-day training courses will target learners/intermediate and advanced motorcycle riders. There are no qualified instructors in Nelson/Tasman so instructors have been sourced from Wellington who have a strong road safety focus. The programme will be practical and classroom based, robust and tailored for our local conditions/people. It is a defensive riding workshop, will promote use of high viz gear, and focus on very practical skills (eg cornering, braking, obstacle avoidance etc). The advanced session will be more about 'roadcraft' and also involve a group ride. There is a growing trend for older people to return to motorcycle riding and/or to join clubs resulting in a high number of people taking recreational rides in the Tasman District. Our area also has a higher than average ownership of motorcycles.

b) Pedestrians

NCC, ACC, Police, Road Sense and TDC are joining forces for a comprehensive series of demonstrations outside schools throughout the Nelson/Tasman area in early November 2005. This will demonstrate the difficulty to stop and consequent dangers when travelling at 60 km/h (as opposed to 50 km/h). We will have a dual audience: adult drivers (the community, residents, parents and older high school students will be targeted) along with the children themselves (mostly primary to intermediate age) who will all be watching. Emphasis will also be made about the unpredictability of children under the theme 'the road is no playground'.

c) Cycle Safety Campaign

NCC and TDC will be carrying out a cycle safety campaign in April/May 2006 (targeting the season when daylight hours shorten) to highlight importance of visibility at night, and educating drivers to 'look twice' at intersections for those road users who are often not 'seen'.

TDC, NCC and Transit NZ continue to support the 0800 cycle crash facility which is giving essential data highlighting patterns and problems for cyclists and other road users. This will help us to better target engineering, education and enforcement resources where appropriate.

d) Rural areas – sharing the road

A "don't burst their bubble" campaign is planned for January 2006 to highlight difficulties that vulnerable road users face when using rural roads (eg joggers, parents with prams, horseriders, school children walking, cyclists etc). This will be a billboard/media campaign tailored for rural areas.

e) Other:

Fatigue: 'Driver Reviver' campaigns are a regular feature in the Tasman District (a reflection of our driving demographic) and the next one is planned for Maruia Springs in the new year and will be in collaboration with Road Safe West Coast.

Safe with Age programmes – excellent course for older people to help build confidence and brush up on road code/road user rules (targeted for 60 yrs +). This is well supported and continues to be popular. TDC is providing targeted support for this programme this year to help it reach the more remote parts of the district. There was a very successful course run in Murchison recently and another is planned for Golden Bay in February 2006.

Network Safety Committee meetings regarding crash reduction on SH 60 (from Three Brothers corner to Rabbit Island) – an excellent opportunity for road safety partners and road controlling authorities to work together on this 'black spot' area in the Nelson/Tasman district.

Other meetings and activities involving residents, young people, community groups, road safety partners and road controlling authorities on a range of road safety matters.

Please let me know if you want more information on any of the projects planned, or if you have an idea that might help address a local road safety problem. (Ph: 543 8551, kirsty.barr@tdc.govt.nz)

Kirsty Barr
Road Safety Coordinator