

Meeting re SH58

with particular reference to the school bus routes

21 September 2022 12.30-2.00pm

Held at Lighthouse Cinema, Pāuatahanui

Present: Shona Cooling (Parent representative), Mayor Anita Baker, Athul Harris (Team leader, Traffic & Road Safety – Transport, PCC), Joel Rowan (Waka Kotahi), Ulvi Salayev (Waka Kotahi), Mike ? (Waka Kotahi), Diane Strugnell (PRA representative)

Waka Kotahi constraints of the SH58 Safety upgrade

- the funding for the project is specific Central Government funding solely for safety improvements. This means that other improvements, for example, four-lanes rather than two, fall outside the scope of the project.
- the funding is time sensitive, that is, if it is not utilised within a given time frame, with consents lodged by November 2022, the funding is lost. This means, for example, that acquiring further land under the Public Works Act, would extend the project beyond the current time frame which, in turn, could mean that the whole project may not go ahead.
- any changes, for the reasons above, must fit within the existing footprint for the project
- State Highway 58 is a state highway whose sole purpose is to move traffic as quickly and safely as possible. This means that it does not have to provide for local needs, for example, the use of the Moonshine Road “lay bys” used by heavy vehicles to park trailers whilst travelling up Moonshine Road.

Current Bus Situation

- the Moonshine Road intersection lay-bys are used by
 - the school bus servicing the “local schools” - Pāuatahanui School and Aotea College - to pick up and drop off students who are resident along SH58 and the adjoining Mt Cecil and Harris Roads
 - the school buses for Hutt Valley schools including Hutt International Boys School, Chilton-St James School, St Oran’s College and Wellesley College, picking up and dropping off students who are resident along SH58 and the adjoining Mt Cecil, Harris and Moonshine Roads
 - the school buses (the same buses as above) who are transferring non-local students between buses to continue their onward journeys
 - parents waiting to drop off or pick up local students using the bus services

Current proposal

Using “7730 Waka Kotahi SH58 Safety Improvements Flyer – collateral for residents tabled 17.8” as the current proposal

- the existing use of Moonshine Road as the transfer hub for the school buses will cease and be transferred to the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection with SH58

- at the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection there is room within the designed “Bus parking/waiting area” to accommodate 2 buses and a minimum of 5 cars.
- at the Moonshine Road intersection there are two bus stops on SH58, one for east-bound buses and one for west-bound buses. Both stops, positioned before the entrances to the roundabout, accommodate a single bus.
- on Moonshine Road, on the western side of the road, is a “Drop-off /pick-up bay” which could accommodate 3 cars.

Safety concerns associated with the current proposal

- there are no noticeable safety concerns for students associated with the proposed design for buses using the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection
- there are significant safety concerns for students associated with the proposed design for buses using the Moonshine Road intersection including
 - no allowance has been made for morning pick up for the bus used by the “local schools” - Pāuatahanui School and Aotea College
 - students being dropped off by the west-bound afternoon buses are required to cross two lanes of SH58 and Moonshine Road to reach the drop-off/pick-up area
 - there is insufficient parking in the drop-off/pick-up area for the number of cars currently using the bus services
 - the majority of cars using the drop-off/pick-up area both in the morning and the afternoon need to u-turn to exit Moonshine Road onto SH58

Possible actions and solutions

- Waka Kotahi will be engaging with the bus companies
- moving the transfer between buses of non-local students to the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection appears to be appropriate
- there are operational plans that can be put in place by the bus companies to improve timing and coordination of services to minimise parent waiting times and/or manage the number of vehicles in the bus areas
- for students being dropped off by the west-bound afternoon buses at Moonshine Road it is optimal if they do not need to cross SH58 at all. There are two possible options
 - the students exit the bus at the bus stop before the roundabout and cross the two lanes of traffic or they could wait at the bus stop which could be used, once the bus has gone as a temporary pick up by parents
 - school warning signs would need to be in place
 - the buses could be required to travel west to the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection, turn at the roundabout and return to the Moonshine intersection roundabout, drop the students off on the est-bound bus stop and use the roundabout to return to the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection. This would slightly increase the time students are on the bus. There is a concern that the bus companies could pass this on to parents as a cost.
- for the local schools’ bus, a bus stop and drop-off needs to be provided on the eastern side of Moonshine Road for the morning run.
 - Waka Kotahi will endeavour to amend the design layout to accommodate this

- if this is not possible, within the project footprint, the responsibility to do so will fall to Porirua City Council

- there will need to be stringent monitoring of the bus stops and drop-off/pick-up zones to ensure that these are kept solely for users of the school bus services

- there will need to be monitoring of the Flightys-Murphys Roads intersection bus area to ensure it is not “mis-used”

- there will be bus shelters placed at all the bus stops

- the historical panels in the Moonshine Road bus shelter will be “rehomed”

Note: Diane will forward other issues and comments raised by Pāuatahanui residents re the SH58 safety upgrade to Joel.

Diane Strugnell
Secretary
Pāuatahanui Residents Association