

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Transportation Manager, Gary Clark

**DATE:** 07 August 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Road Safety Projects – 2009-2010 – RESC-10-08-04**  
Report prepared for meeting of 19 August 2010

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### 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the road safety projects that were completed last year.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

The Road Safety Coordinator's role is an important component of delivering safer roads to our District. The Road Safety Coordinators from Tasman District and Nelson City Council work together to provide a variety of programmes and projects to address road safety issues across the region.

### 3 ROAD SAFETY COORDINATION

As part of the Road Safety Coordinator role meetings are attended with other agencies and a range of community groups. These agencies and groups work together on road safety projects. Some of these agencies/organisations and community groups include the Police, ACC, Nelson City Council, Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), Marlborough District Council, Opus, schools, colleges and early learning centres, Plunket, Rotary, cycle and walking advocacy groups, accessibility forum, positive ageing forums, Road Safe Nelson Bays, local retailers, accommodation providers, motorbike groups and other Council staff. Our Road Safety Coordinator has also assisted the Police on three occasions during the year as the community representative on panels for job interviews.

Regular articles were placed throughout the year in local media, both print and radio and the Council website. Relationships with different media outlets have been established and maintained.

Final reports for all the projects carried out in the 2009-2010 financial year were submitted on time to NZTA by 14 July 2010.

### 4 ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS

#### ***Motorbikes***

**Training courses** - during the year 12 motorcycle training courses were held. These consisted of two condensed sessions for college students, one on-road course, five aimed at beginner to intermediate riders and four aimed at advanced riders. In total 135 riders of

different ages, abilities and riding different bikes participated in a course. The courses were promoted through local motorbike retailers, clubs and newsletters, previous participants and a range of local media. Local motorbike club riders and the Police helped out with the running of each of the courses.

**Checkpoints** – three checkpoints were run in conjunction with the ACC and the Police. One was aimed at commuter riders and two at recreational weekend riders. During the weekend checks we found one problem was that riders did not know who to contact in regard to any roading issues. A flyer was produced to try and resolve this.

**Motorbike flyer** – this was put together and provided information for Tasman District and Nelson City roads and for State Highways. It was widely distributed through motorbike retailers, clubs and newsletters and to individual riders and has been well received.

### **Young drivers**

The Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) programme was run for Year 11 students from Tasman schools and colleges. The students attended for a whole day and took part in six different sessions – Safe Partying; It's your choice; Consequences; Hazard Awareness and Defensive Driving; Budgeting and Insurance Advice; and Stopping Distances Demonstration.

In addition to these sessions, during the lunch break students had access to a car that was involved in a high speed crash in Dunedin and resulted in one young person losing their life (this was used last year as the larger "Thirsty Thursday" project), the seatbelt sled and Students Against Drink Driving (SADD) were organised to run a sausage sizzle. There was good feedback (from completed questionnaires and anecdotal evidence) from the teachers, students and Rotary members.

### **Fatigue**

**Voucher project** - this project has now run for three years and involves vouchers being distributed which entitle the vehicle driver to a free coffee/tea/bottled water at designated cafes across the top of the South Island. The voucher shows which cafes are involved in the campaign and also driving times from different locations and information around fatigue. The vouchers were distributed through a range of different outlets, including camping and holidays parks, the Police, at the Interislander ferry terminal in Wellington, Council offices and through employers. There has been a positive response from all the cafes involved with the project and from all the local places that have assisted in the distribution of the vouchers.

**Road Safety Map** – this was re-printed last year with increased numbers being distributed through a wider range of different groups, organisations and retailers. Feedback has shown that it was popular with locals and tourists.

### **Cycling Projects**

**Bike Wise** – Bike Wise family rides and Go by Bike day breakfasts were held in Golden Bay, Motueka and Richmond. The Motueka family ride did not run this year as it was postponed twice, once due to a tsunami and the second time due to heavy rain. During each of the Bike Wise events the local community and Councillors were involved and assisted with the running of the events.

**Cycle skills and maintenance courses** – these had previously been held through school community education classes. This had worked well, but due to the funding for community education being reduced or withdrawn altogether only two cycle skills courses were held.

**Bells on bikes** - following on from concerns about school students cycling on footpaths bells were fitted on to bikes at four Tasman Schools Motupipi, Takaka, Central Takaka and Motueka South. Just under 200 bells were fitted.

### ***Pedestrian projects***

**“Look Out, Zebras Crossing”** – this was run at the start of the new term with schools in the district that had a zebra/pedestrian crossing. There were several media articles in local newspapers before the campaign and a follow-up article in Newsline after the campaign. Cut out zebras and large zebra posters were carried backwards and forwards across the school crossings before and after school. The campaign was to remind drivers to take an extra look at school crossings and to remind students of the correct way to use the school crossing. The zebras are still being used by the schools.

**Walk to work** – this was run with assistance from Councillor Judene Edgar and other Council staff. There was good media coverage organised before the event which helped boost numbers from last year

### ***Restraints***

No checking clinics or checkpoints were run last financial year due to a change of personnel at Plunket who are essential in the running of this project.

However Buckle Bear still visited a number of early learning centres across the district. Flyers and height charts were distributed at all early learning centres to encourage the use of booster seats past the age of five years and the Booster Rooster resource was developed.

### ***Road Safety in Tasman and Nelson***

The Road Safety in Tasman and Nelson publication was a 24-page tabloid that focused on road safety issues across the district. It highlighted what the issues were and then outlined how to stay safe on the roads and safely share the road with the all the other different road users. It was distributed with The Nelson Mail, Richmond/Nelson Leaders and Motueka and Golden Bay News. It was also distributed through Council offices, Libraries, car and motorbike driving instructors, other local community groups and schools. On the back page of the publication were 25 road code questions, which if filled in correctly gave participants the opportunity to win AA Reward Points. School students were given the additional opportunity of winning an I-pod.

### ***Carpooling***

Carpooling was promoted through the Jayride website. To help promote this Newsline and other local media were used, along with posters and flyers. After the initial promotion the numbers of rides from the Tasman District increased.

## ***Road Safety Billboards***

The road safety billboards on local roads were swapped every three months and showed different road safety messages depending on the season. Working with Councillor Trevor Norriss and in time for the opening of the new Black Bridge, Ngatimoti School students designed their own billboard images. These were to reflect local community road safety messages. Three images were chosen which were made up into billboards and are now placed within the Ngatimoti community.

## ***Sharing the Road***

Working with two local schools, the NZ Road Transport Association and local truck companies a Sharing the Road campaign was run. This was to educate students on how blind spots in trucks work and the effects of wind turbulence if they are out walking or cycling.

## ***School Travel Planning***

The first two Tasman schools that launched their School Travel Plans (STPs) have received an audit of their action plans to ensure these are progressing as planned. The Salisbury Road cluster of schools have all been through the consultation phase and the safety issues raised through this process have been prioritised to form the action table with input from the working party.

As a result of these action tables, issues were put into education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering categories. Some of the education and encouragement actions were to run cycle skills training courses, help with the setting up of Walking School Buses and Cycle Trains. These Buses and Trains are now running and the number of students and families taking part has increased. The school and local community have also taken ownership of these.

## ***Winter Driving***

Flyers to highlight winter driving safety issues, complimentary ice scrapers and NZTA flyers on the new winter tyres regulations were distributed across the District.

## ***Website***

Road Safety pages have been entered and published ready for the new Council website.

## ***Traffic Management***

After completing the STMS qualification, the Road Safety Coordinator has been assisting Mark Jones on approving Traffic Management Plans and was the contact for these during annual leave taken by Mark. She has also been trained on the new T3 system which will start later this year.

## ***Road Safety Engineering Workshop***

The Road Safety Coordinator attended this week-long course in May 2010. A range of different areas were covered and a lot of knowledge gained. It was a fascinating workshop

and proved to be a very steep learning curve. The course culminated with the provision of a certificate and the opportunity to become a Safety Auditor for roading projects.

***SASTA (Safe and Sustainable Transport Association)***

Tasman District council's Road Safety Coordinator has represented the Top of the South Island on the national SASTA group for the past two years. It involves meetings four times a year in Wellington (all travel is paid by SASTA) and allows inside knowledge into national road safety issues, the Government's stance on road safety and any upcoming changes, and the opportunity to help submitting on new rules, regulations and law changes.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Report (RESC10-07-04) Road Safety Projects 2009-2010 be received by the Engineering Services Committee.**

Gary Clark  
**Transportation Manager**