

KUPE STREET ŌRĀKEI – IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

ŌRĀKEI LOCAL BOARD FEEDBACK 5TH OCTOBER 2018

BACKGROUND:

Auckland Transport is proposing pedestrian amenity improvements at the intersection of Kupe Street, Takitimu Street and Te Arawa Street, Ōrākei. This is expected to improve crossing opportunities along Kupe Street and provide pedestrian facilities on Takitimu St and Kupe St.

Works involve intersection tightening, focussing on the northern end to reduce north/south crossing distance. Consideration of installation of a pedestrian refuge island for east/west crossing.

FEEDBACK:

Community concern about traffic safety in Kupe St is evident. Initiatives for traffic calming and an education programme are being undertaken by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. Requests for traffic safety improvements have been made of the Board for improvements by the Ōrākei Community Association. Preliminary discussions have begun between the Board and Ngāti Whātua with the vision of working together to improve the safety of Kupe St and its feeder roads. There are serious concerns from residents and visitors to the Marae, around speeding and other unsafe usage by road users. There is significant development underway through the Kāinga Tuatahi development project on Kupe St- delivering 30 additional medium density homes for Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei whanau. With more families residing in the area, there are more children using these local roads. It is important that we look to a long term solution for all traffic safety problems in the area to ensure these mokopuna can get to and from the Marae, schools, playgrounds, and sporting facilities safely.

The new speed table on Kupe St will help reduce vehicle speed, provide a safer crossing point over the road, and is necessary for good pedestrian access to the bus stops in close proximity. Similarly, the pedestrian refuge in the new traffic island on Takitimu street, enhances safety for all road users.

SUMMARY:

The Ōrākei Local Board welcomes the improvements to pedestrian safety that will result from these improvements, and supports the works as proposed. It also notes that a more comprehensive safety programme for this area is needed.