

# Making the road from Drury to Paerata safer

State Highway 22 between Drury and Paerata is classified as a high-risk rural road for a reason. Nine people died and 36 were seriously injured in the past 10 years\*. Most of these crashes were caused by drivers losing control and running off the road, or crossing the centreline and hitting an oncoming vehicle.

\*between 2006 and 2015

## Something has to change

We understand this road is an important link for commuters, local businesses and freight, but its unsafe passing lanes and poor visibility at intersections make it difficult for drivers.

Up to 25,000 vehicles a day are using SH22 to connect to State Highway 1, and vehicle numbers are increasing. We urgently need to make safety improvements before more people lose their lives.

## How we will make the road safer

To make the road more forgiving if people make mistakes, we plan to:

- » install flexible road safety barriers to reduce the risk of head-on crashes
- » improve safety at key intersections by installing a roundabout or traffic lights, right turn bays or safer turning areas
- » install a flush median or a wide centreline, giving drivers a safe place to wait
- » create a safer two-metre wide shoulder for cyclists and pedestrians
- » address unsafe passing lanes.

## Making rural roads safer

This project is part of the Safe Roads and Roadsides Programme underway to make New Zealand rural roads safer. The programme aims to prevent deaths and serious injuries through relatively simple measures such as rumble strips, shoulder widening, safety barriers, better signs and changes to speed limits.

### Wide centrelines

Widening the centreline is a deceptively simple way to steer drivers away from each other.



### Flexible road safety barriers

These barriers catch drivers who leave their lane before hitting something harder like trees, poles, ditches or other vehicles.



**What you told us**

Earlier this year we sought community feedback and you told us what your main safety concerns were for this stretch of road:

- *the behaviour of other drivers*
- *speeding*
- *getting in and out of your driveway and/or work*
- *congestion*
- *unsafe intersections and passing lanes*
- *pedestrian and cyclist safety.*

We listened and this valuable information has helped us shape the proposed SH22 safety improvements. Your feedback also highlighted some additional areas where safety improvements could be made. The map below outlines what we have come up with. **Have we got it right?**



**What's happening, and when?**

**July - December 2017**

Consultation with landowners and the community. Present proposed design and check we have got it right.

**September 2017**

Seek final approval so we can finalise the design and start the work.

**Late 2017**

Confirm the preferred option and tell you what safety improvements will be made.

**Late 2018**

Construction starts. All going to plan, the safety improvements will be finished in 2021.

**Tell us what you think**

Have we got it right? Please get in touch to tell us what you think or if you have any questions.

- Feedback [nzta.govt.nz/d2p/have-your-say](https://nzta.govt.nz/d2p/have-your-say)
- Kathy Chinn on 021 064 4777
- [kathy.chinn@saferoads.co.nz](mailto:kathy.chinn@saferoads.co.nz)
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