

Felton Matthew Ave / St Johns Rd Intersection Improvements – OLB Feedback 9th May 2018

The Ōrākei Local Board passed a resolution at its Business Meeting in March 2018 seeking solutions from Auckland Transport to address the safety and congestion issues currently affecting this intersection. The Board supports the works proposed – both the implementation of the clearway on St Johns Rd and the signalized controls at the intersection with Felton Matthew.

Collision accidents at this intersection have become increasingly common. Particularly at peak hour traffic times, exiting from Felton Matthew Ave and attempting a right hand turn into St Johns Rd has become a difficult and occasionally dangerous exercise even for experienced and confident drivers. The vehicle queue build-up on Felton Matthew causes frustrations for waiting motorists and undue risk taking. Adding to the problem is the use of this route by heavy transport vehicles.

The conflicting use of the reasonably wide medium strip for vehicles both entering and exiting Felton Matthew also causes confusion, and creates visibility issues for straight through traffic on St Johns Rd.

School students walking to and from nearby Selwyn College and St Thomas's Schools who live on the southern side of St Johns Rd must cross the very wide, and busy top of Felton Matthew Avenue as part of their commuter route. This is no easy task even when the traffic is light. Navigating this intersection as a cyclist is downright dangerous. Whilst there is some appetite within the community for a roundabout in preference to a controlled and signalized intersection, the Board's view is that the requirements of all road users must be taken into consideration. A roundabout would not solve the current difficulties and access problems for pedestrians and cyclist and we therefore prefer the intersection be signalized as proposed.

Improvements to this intersection are particularly needed for those residents/commuters living on the southern side of St Johns Rd/ east of Felton Matthew looking for a safe walking or cycling option to access section 2 of the Glen Innes – Tamaki Shared Pathway.