

18 September 2019

Mr Hugh Davenport
fyi-request-11026-d3217403@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Davenport

Thank you for your email dated 21 August 2019 regarding the slow down speed signs around the city. You have requested:

1. *Any policies the Council has for installing these signs.*
2. *Any policies the Council has for changing speed limits with in the city.*
3. *What the council are doing to ensure their policies contain instructions for the Traffic Engineers to ensure that the signs are always configured with the actual speed limit.*
4. *In addition, for each of these SLOW DOWN signs installed in the city, I would like the following information:*
 - *The location of the sign*
 - *The date the sign was installed*
 - *The speed limit at the location the sign is installed*
 - *The date the speed limit was set*
 - *The configured speed for the installed sign*
 - *The date that the sign was configured with the current speed*
 - *If the configured speed does not match the current speed limit, then a timeframe on when the council is planning on correcting the configuration to reflect the actual speed limit.*
 - *Whether the above policies (in regards to installation of the sign, or changing of the speed limit) were followed when the sign was installed. If they were not followed, then what is the council doing to ensure that the policies are followed in the future.*
5. *The time required for a sign to have its configured speed changed on. If it is a short timeframe, then an explanation on why the sign installed on Willis St has not been resolved after 2 weeks, and what the council are doing to ensure that safety concerns are fixed promptly.*

Thank you for bringing the Willis Street slow speed sign to our attention, you should have already received an email from our transport engineer Orencio Gueco on 26 August to say that he would be arranging for the Willis Street sign to be attended to. We can confirm the sign on Willis Street has been amended and now flashes "Slow Down" when a vehicle exceeds 30km/h.

We have responded to each of your questions below.

Policies – Questions 1 and 2

The Wellington City Council (the Council) has adopted the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Speed Management Guide Volume 2 (2016). This provides advice on a toolbox of speed management countermeasures which includes advisory speed signs. Please click on the link to see guidance. This is the guidance used to ensure the Council is following process. <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/speed-management-resources/speed-management-toolbox-and-appendices-201611.pdf>

We also have other policy/guidance on our website, which might be of use to you. Please see below links.

Speed Limit Bylaws - <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/wellington-consolidated-bylaw-2008/part-6-speed-limits>

Lowering Speed Limits - <https://wellington.govt.nz/services/parking-and-roads/lower-speed-limits>

Slow down signs – Questions 3 and 4

Please see the attached document for the location, set speed limit and installation date of each slow down sign in the city. As referenced, the Council uses the above guidance from NZTA to ensure traffic engineers follow protocol.

On the matter of fault reporting and ongoing maintenance to ensure that we still meet the guidance as set out by NZTA, the Council conducts routine annual maintenance; the signs are also repaired as and when necessary following a report from Council staff, contractors or the public. All the signs were checked and recalibrated as necessary last December. In general they have proved to be reasonably reliable with about 14% requiring some attention at the last inspection. These have also been adjusted to fit the correct speed limit.

Willis Street sign – Question 5

The time to taken to reconfigure a fault is usually 3-5 working day depending on the type of fault. In order to improve on our current fault reporting process, the Council will be looking at the potential for automated fault reporting for this type of sign to mirror our current automated systems for traffic signals, streetlights and school warning signs. This would avoid the situation which arose at Willis Street where the traffic engineer responsible for these devices was on leave and other available staffs was occupied on other priority work.

Thank you again for your request. I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Regards,



Asha Harry
Assurance Advisor