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Contact: Sam Pirrotta
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Our Ref: QD 1924206
File No: SY 200 WYN 000 4331

Dear Mr O'Donnell

DOHERTYS ROAD, LAVERTON

Thank you for the opportunity to meet on Friday, 12 April 2013, to discuss concerns with the traffic conditions along Dohertys Road, particularly at the Hume Road and Cherry Lane intersections. I appreciate the time set aside by all the members of the local industries to attend and contribute to this meeting.

I note the concerns regarding road safety, traffic delays, erratic driver behaviour, difficult turning manoeuvres, damage to the infrastructure caused by large trucks, and the economic impact of these issues on local industries.

As discussed, a design has been developed for the duplication of Dohertys Road between Fitzgerald Road and Grieve Parade and VicRoads has actively sought funding for these works. Traffic signals at Hume Road and a roundabout at Cherry Lane are included as part of the duplication design.

Such proposals need to be assessed and prioritised against other proposals across the state. To this date, funding applications have been unsuccessful, however, VicRoads considers this to be a very important project from the perspective of road safety, traffic operations and economic development and will continue to seek funding for these works. A business case is currently being updated again for future program consideration.

I can also confirm that VicRoads' officers have investigated the feasibility of installing traffic signals at Hume Road as an interim treatment. The cost of such a treatment, even with a reduced design standard, means that it would not attract funding in the near future. In addition, an assessment of this interim proposal concluded that more than half of the infrastructure for the interim signals would need to be modified or removed should the duplication proceed.

At this location, the cost of installing traffic signal equipment would be a relatively small part of the installation cost. A significant cost of interim traffic signals relates to the work required to realign the existing kerbs to allow for large turning trucks, widening and strengthening the larger road pavement area, adjustments to underground utilities and relocation of above ground services, particularly the electrical power supply poles.

It is unlikely that the relevant service authorities would agree to contribute to this project by undertaking utility relocation works at their cost. Therefore, the total cost would need to be part of the VicRoads funded project.

As requested at the meeting, VicRoads has also investigated whether any improvements which are part of the duplication can be undertaken sooner. The duplication plans show a left turn slip lane from Dohertys Road (west approach) into Hume Road. A review to provide this facility in the interim concluded that it would be a high cost treatment, primarily due to the need to relocate underground and aboveground services. A significant amount of any interim work would be lost when the duplication occurs.

As you may be aware, in recent times, VicRoads has completed a number of short term improvements, including lowering the speed limit on Dohertys Road from 70 to 60 km/h. At the Hume Road intersection, VicRoads has replaced the give-way sign with a stop sign, undertaken maintenance work to the pavement, adjusted the linemarking and repaired and strengthened the utility pit lids. Further work will be undertaken, later this financial year, to repair the roadside dips created by large vehicles cutting the corners when turning left at the intersection.

As discussed at the meeting, VicRoads with the City of Wyndham will review the current parking arrangements to improve visibility issues caused by parked vehicles, especially on the south side of the intersection. VicRoads will also review the signing near the start and end of the centre median to ensure drivers are aware of the changed road conditions.

In addition, VicRoads will continue to monitor this area to determine if there are any other short term measures which can be undertaken to improve traffic conditions until the ultimate duplication is undertaken.

Thank you again for your time. It would be appreciated if you could also pass on my thanks to the other industry members who attended the meeting.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, Mr Sam Pirrotta, Manager Traffic Operations (Tel: 9313 1321, email: sam.pirrotta@roads.vic.gov.au) would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



PATRICIA LIEW
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

18/4/2013