



Pedestrian platforms have been introduced to both ends of Queen Street as a traffic calming strategy

It's not all digging and tarseal

Roding staff are involved in a variety of areas, one of which is traffic management planning for special events. Some examples are the annual Christmas Parade, the Tour de Manawatu cycle race, and Grand Prix car parades. These are often cross-district events, requiring coordination between PNCC, MDC and Transit NZ.

Traffic management planning is already underway for an international convention of the Harley Owners Group [HOGs] to be held in February 2008. The HOGs want to do a run from the racecourse, through the city itself, then out through the Manawatu Gorge, returning over the Saddle Road, through the Manawatu District and back into the city. As they're expecting in the order of 1200 Harley owners from round the world to participate in the ride, this could mean it will take 10 minutes for all bikes to pass any given point.

Staff have to figure out how to get the riders through the town, with minimum disruption to its residents. This presents some real challenges, and we are already working with the organisers on this. Planning of this nature can involve substantial costs which are borne by the organisers of the convention.



20 years ... but who's counting!

Graeme Tong, celebrated 20 years service with the Council on the 7 September. Graeme was initially employed as an Engineering Officer, tasked with setting up the Road Asset Maintenance Management [RAMM] database. In 1989 he moved into the role of Roding Programme Coordinator, and in 1993 became the Roding Manager.



Graeme says the LTCCP, asset management planning, and the requirements of central government around consultation continue to bring Roding staff more in tune with the community, even though it can take a lot more effort to reach the desired outcome. "After 20 years I can still say that we get new situations arriving on our doorstep - there is always something new to challenge you."

Did you know...?

The number of hours committed to Road Policing within a city's boundaries is a matter of agreement between the local authority, Transit NZ, Land Transport NZ, Ministry of Transport and NZ Police. It's part of the Safety Administration Programme that supports governments Road Safety to 2010 goals.



So much truck.... So little space!

This year's programme has

just been settled and the local police activities resourced include speed control, drink/drugged driver control, restraint device control, visible road safety and general enforcement, Police communities services, school road safety education, crash attendance and investigation, and traffic management.

New Bus Routes

The City Council and Horizons Regional Council have been working together to open a new bus route in the Kelvin Grove area. The new route sees buses travelling from Kelvin Grove Road, through James Line, and down Brookland Heights Drive.

Our Winning Ways ...

Palmerston North City Council has won an award for innovative use of waste container glass as part of a national award from the Packaging Council of New Zealand, for its Crushed Glass Aggregate Project. These awards recognise those companies, individuals or organisations who are making a significant environmental effort or difference with their products, processes or programmes, and PNCC, in conjunction with Higgins Aggregates Ltd and Full Circle, was sponsored for its development of a solution to get rid of unwanted glass.

The Crushed Glass Aggregate Project sees crushed glass mixed with the base course of roads, and this has been used on Brookland Heights Drive. Roding staff are monitoring the results, conducting detail analysis, including pre and post construction surveys to check there is no deterioration of the structural integrity of the roadway over time.

Milson Line Closure

Anyone driving along Milson Line to and from the city, may have noticed the small yellow signs at the road edge. These do not contain information directed at the driver, rather they meet a legal requirement to mark the points at which Milson Line will be closed. All information and communication about the road closure is being done through newspapers, meetings, and direct contact where appropriate.



Deciding whether or not to close Milson Line comes down to a simple choice between retaining multiple routes between Feilding and Palmerston North, or retaining all the air services available through Palmerston North Airport. It is primarily an aviation safety issue. If the roadway remains open, the runway must be shortened. The Council does not want to do anything that jeopardises the airport's opportunity for growth. After all, the airport is a regional facility; it benefits everyone in the region, not just city residents.

Roading staff do not see much benefit to the community in investigating the building of a road around the end of the runway when investing in upgrading other roads into the city will give better benefits. For the bulk of traffic moving between Feilding and Palmerston North, other routes are available offering the same or less driving time.

It is accepted, however, that a small number of people living immediately north of the city may face a longer drive for some journeys. The Ambulance Service have been consulted and is understood to support planned improvements to Railway Road which will provide an access route to the hospital that is at least as fast as the Milson Line route, and potentially faster in the long term.

Then there's Ruahine Street. If Milson Line remained open, Ruahine Street, and the Milson Line overbridge, would need to be widened - congestion in that area is already severe at peak times. Costs of upgrading this route are huge! \$20 million is the estimate to date.

After considering all the options, Roothing staff favour upgrading other arterial routes instead of keeping Milson Line open. The parallel routes of Railway Road and Rangitikei Line both have spare capacity, and investment in improving those routes is seen as being more cost effective, and provides a safer and more efficient roading network.

Joseph Street

Residents, business operators and property owners in Joseph Street were recently asked to make a choice of tree species to be planted on the roadside.

Six species were identified and 61% of those responding chose *Knightia excelsa*, more commonly known as the Honeysuckle Tree, as their preferred species, more than 3 times the support of the next preferred species.



Roothing staff have been fortunate in being able to source reasonably sized specimen trees which will enable the planting to be undertaken in the current planting programme.

Undergrounding of Services

The project to move all power and phone lines in the Old ElectroPower area underground is going well and is on target. This project is scheduled to be completed in 12 months time.



Rangiora Avenue where undergrounding has not yet occurred.



... and where it has

Construction Alert!

Disruption to traffic flow will occur around the intersection of Church Street and The Square near the Council Admin Building over the next few weeks as a roundabout is constructed and the roadway and footpaths between Church Street and Main Street are upgraded.



The purpose of the streetscape upgrade is to provide a more pedestrian friendly link between the inner-city foot paths and the Square, increase safety at the intersection, reduce the speed of traffic and beautify the immediate area.

Roothing staff are working closely with retailers in the area to keep disruption and road closures to a minimum during the construction phase. If you normally drive or cycle through this area, consider using alternate routes until at least the end of October.



New roundabout at intersection of Church Street and The Square

A gentle reminder from Roadsafe Central

Stay in your lane - share the road.

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