

8.1 GLEN WAVERLEY SHOPPING CENTRE 40 KM/H AREA SPEED LIMIT

Submitting Councillor: Geoff Lake

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council agrees to the 40 km/h Area Speed Limit for the Glen Waverley Shopping Centre as presented in the report and an application for approval be made to VicRoads.

INTRODUCTION

In shopping centre precincts with high pedestrian activity the 50 km/h urban speed limit seems inappropriate.

Kingsway, Glen Waverley, between Bogong Avenue and Coleman Parade for example, is an area where it is necessary to travel at speeds well below the speed limit because of the high level of parking activity and pedestrian movement that takes place.

In practice motorists generally tend to drive at a speed 'more in keeping with the street conditions' but this is not always the case. Unfortunately the appropriate duty of care is not always self enforced and a signed reduced speed limit could dictate and emphasise a constraint on vehicle speed more fitting to the pedestrian environment and enhance pedestrian safety.

It has been suggested that a 40 km/h speed limit be applied to Kingsway. In practice a more beneficial approach would be to embrace the shopping precinct in full.

DISCUSSION

Since the State Government lowered the urban speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h in January 2001, other programs selectively reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h around Schools and selected Strip Shopping Centres have also been introduced to reduce the risk to pedestrians. Promotional material for all of these programs has emphasised that the even small reductions in speed can result in significant reductions in road trauma.

The Strip Shopping Centre program has focused on arterial road locations reducing the posted 60 km/h limit to a 40 km/h limit. The only location managed in this way in Monash to date is Clayton Road through the Clayton Shopping Centre.

There is no particular program for reducing speed limits on local roads at shopping centres however the Speed Zoning Guidelines in the VicRoads Traffic Engineering Manual provides the opportunity to sign local streets with a 40 km/h limit and this may be done on an area basis.

SURVEY

The following table shows the traffic volume and speeds as surveyed in Kingsway in late 2004.

Kingsway	North Bound	South Bound
Bogong Avenue - Coleman Parade		
24 Hr - Average Weekday Volume	4300	5500
85th Percentile Speed km/h	30	33
% above 40 km/h	1.7	3.4
% above 50 km/h	0.1	0.4

**85th Percentile Speed is the speed up to which 85% of vehicles travel and is used as an indicator of general traffic speed*

The proportion of vehicles that travel faster than 40 km/h is very low and scrutiny of the daily data shows that the vast majority of this number do so between 6.30 – 9.00am.

PROPOSAL

A 40 km/h area speed limit may be applied to a network of roads within an area by erecting appropriate signing at each entry and exit to the area. Repeater signs within the area are also used. The network may be comprised of local streets and access roads and aisles within a car park.

Technically the speed limit should only be applied to roads which have been designed to support the lower speed limit or where traffic calming devices are in place. There is sound argument the shopping centre environment in itself satisfies this condition.

Attachment 1 identifies a suggested 40 km/h Speed Limit Area for the Glen Waverley Shopping Centre. Advantages of the proposal are:

- Clearly identifies the shopping precinct and provides a uniform limit for better driver awareness.
- Would promote a community feeling of road safety similar to School Zones.
- Will provide a control in over those roads such as Railway Parade North where vehicle speeds are more miss-matched to the pedestrian activity.

The proposal requires review and approval by VicRoads.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The erection of traffic related signage will be undertaken within the programmed budget for such works.

CONCLUSION

In shopping centre precincts with high pedestrian activity it is necessary for motorists to be aware of the environment and adjust their travelling speed accordingly.

Within Glen Waverley Shopping Centre Precinct there are various street situations and the level of speed adjustment varies according to the nature of each one and as a consequence the safety risk for pedestrians also varies from street to street.

In an effort to better unify driver speed control within the precinct a 40 km/h Area Speed Limit as shown in Attachment A is proposed and an application to VicRoads for approval is recommended.