



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
Telephone: (08) 9213 6400
Facsimile: (08) 9213 6401
Email: amaactiernan@dpc.wa.gov.au
ABN: 61 313 082 730

My Ref : 02-024735 02-024686

16 JAN 2007

Ms S Hurt
Secretary
Swan Valley Progress Association Inc
Lot 55 Saunders Street
HENLEY BROOK WA 6055

Dear Ms Hurt

Thank you for your emails of 22 and 28 December 2006 requesting consideration be given to dual Reid Highway from West Swan Road to Beechboro Road and installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Reid Highway and Lord Street. The Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

Reid Highway from Beechboro Road to West Swan Road was constructed in 1996 as a high standard two lane road which is considered to adequately serve the developing communities for which it was designed. This section of highway is subject of Control of Access with no driveway connections and very few intersections.

By comparison, the section between West Swan Road and Great Northern Highway (Middle Swan Road) is an older road of a significantly lower standard which fulfils the function of a highway. Furthermore, this section which caters for direct driveway access was never intended to carry its current volume and mix of traffic and requires regular costly maintenance in order to ensure safety.

As you would appreciate, funding for roads is limited and it is essential that the monies that are available be directed to those areas providing greatest community benefit. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed extension of Reid Highway between West Swan Road and Great Northern Highway must take priority.

Notwithstanding the above, you are assured that the dualling of the section of Reid Highway from West Swan Road to Beechboro Road will be considered as part of the development of future State Budgets together with other high priority projects across the State.

In regard to your request for installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Lord Street and Reid Highway, Main Roads considers that traffic signals, while a very useful traffic management tool, are not necessarily the most appropriate device at this location and other options are being examined before a final decision is made. Experience has shown that while signals address the more serious right angle category accidents, they often result in an increased level of rear-end type crashes.

Crash data indicates that of the 71 crashes reported in the five years from January 2001 to December 2005, 53 were rear-end crashes involving vehicles on the Lord Street approach. I understand a safety issue identified at this location is the geometry of Lord Street. As you may be aware, Lord Street, a local road under the care and control of the City of Swan, curves on its approach to the Highway, masking the intersection and, despite the installation of an advance intersection warning sign, confuses some motorists.

However, Council proposes to realign this section of Lord Street and has sought funding under the 2007/08 State Black Spot Funding program. It would be appropriate to monitor this location following Council's modifications to determine the impact of these improvements on the high rear-end crash rates at this site.

Notwithstanding the above, I understand that Main Roads has future plans to install traffic signals once development on the southern side of Reid Highway has occurred, creating a fourth leg to the intersection. In the meantime you are assured that Main Roads will continue to monitor safety at this location and working co-operatively with Council, will undertake all practical safety enhancements as necessary.

I trust the information provided has addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Rob Giles
CHIEF OF STAFF