

11 November 2022

Birkdale Safe School Speeds Zone Trial Update

Kia Ora Birkdale School community

Safe School Speeds Zone is a pilot programme that AT is trialling with a number of schools around Auckland. The programme sees temporary measures introduced around a school before any long-term solutions are implemented. The changes are designed to increase safety outside schools, reduce the speed of vehicles and encourage more students and their families to walk and cycle to and from school each day.

The temporary changes are the outcome of the co-design process that took place between December 2020 and February 2021. The design includes a simplified road layout, kerb buildouts to slow traffic and artwork to signal to all road users that this is a school area and slow speeds/extra care is needed.

The results of the trial have demonstrated safer speeds around the school, and improved levels of safety for students and other members of the community. Based on the results, AT has decided to proceed towards a permanent solution. While we work through the permanent design process, some or all of the temporary measures may remain in place to continue to provide a safer school zone.

What data informed our decision?

Our decision was based on school and public feedback and results from traffic monitoring. The primary outcome for the Safe School Speed Zone Trial is to reduce the operating speed of traffic around schools to around 30kph. Speed data collected before and after this trial showed that safer speeds were achieved around Birkdale Primary. On Salisbury Road-Birkdale Road to Bishopgate Street for instance there was a reduction of 17% of vehicles exceeding 30km/ph.

What changes were included in the trial?

The following changes were made in the trial and will become the basis for the permanent design.

- School zone markings which act as a visual cue to drivers that they are entering a slow speed area as well as new speed bumps
- Drop-off and pick-up zones outside school gates in the vicinity of 26-128 Birkdale Road and 3-5 Salisbury Road indicated by a purple painted kerb and signage
- Kerb buildouts along Birkdale Road and Salisbury Road to reduce lane width to slow down vehicle speeds around the school and to prevent illegal parking
- Street art within kerb buildouts and on the footpath with a specific theme chosen by Birkdale Primary School.



Community engagement on the permanent solution

Auckland Transport will engage with the community before any permanent changes are implemented, through mail outs, drop-in sessions, and site meetings. We expect to begin consultation on the permanent design in the upcoming weeks and will let you know how to get involved

Supporting Vision Zero

The Safe Schools Streets Trial supports Tāmaki Makaurau's commitment to Vision Zero, an ambitious transport safety vision, with the goal of no deaths or serious injuries on our transport system by 2050. This approach acknowledges that as people we all make mistakes, however a mistake should not mean someone dies or is seriously injured on our roads. It's also an approach that values everyone using the road, not just those in vehicles. It is about caring for more vulnerable road users like people walking or cycling, children and the elderly. Vision Zero is the international benchmark for transport safety. For more information please visit:

<https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/birkdale-primary-school>

Ngā mihi,

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