Traffic Note 33

Date: February 2002

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No. of pages: 1

2001 Road Safety Survey reports – Information

The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) has carried out further surveys on how the road controlling authorities (RCAs) are applying safety standards. The surveys help fulfil the LTSA’s statutory function to “monitor adherence to safety standards within the land transport system.”

The surveys this year covered roadside hazards and road hierarchies. The results have been published in reports RSS 15 Roadside Hazard Management and RSS 16 Road Hierarchies.

• The roadside hazard management survey found RCAs were aware of roadside hazard management issues and complying reasonably with good practice on new and reconstructed roads. However, it also found a disappointingly low number of collisions sites with effectively treated roadside hazards. Based on crash surveys, a number of observations are made about relative risks and priorities for reducing these risks in relation to the two main causes of concern – trees and utility poles.

• The survey on road hierarchies showed the majority of RCAs had a formal hierarchy, most frequently documented in their district plan. They are often used for town planning, defining priorities or levels of service for maintenance, and setting road design or construction standards. The LTSA believes the information obtained in the survey should be used to derive a national road hierarchy and appropriate safety standards for each class of road in the hierarchy. This would enable roads to be systematically upgraded, and give road users a safe road environment consistent with the class of road.

Complementary copies of each report were sent to each local authority and Transit New Zealand. Copies are available through the LTSA’s Regional Engineers in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch for $10 each. All road safety survey reports can be downloaded at http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/publications/road_safety_survey_series.html

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