

7 May 2025

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REF: OIA-18132

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Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2025 requesting information regarding the removal of median barriers as part of the SH16 Brigham Creek to Waimauku project. Your request has been addressed under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), and each part is responded to in turn below.

- 1. What concerns additional to those raised through the most recent NoR process were received? Surely the NoR process dealt with all these concerns and matters, so am at a loss for what 'new' concerns could be raised.***

No new concerns have been raised. However, discussions initiated by local residents with our site staff have indicated continued concerns with the inability to turn right into and out of their properties and the increased travel time and distance associated with the installation of the median barrier.

- 2. Despite that, what arguments did they provide that were so compelling that the median barriers (a critical part of the improvements in my view, given they were a key preventer of the traffic manoeuvres that the improvements were addressing) are removed this late into the build process?***

While there were no additional arguments raised, the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is now guided by the Government's principles for assessing all safety interventions during the development of a project. These guidelines give greater weighting to community and efficiency concerns. These principles can be found on page 4 of New Zealand's road safety objectives (available at: www.transport.govt.nz/assets/24-EX-087-Road-Safety-Objectives-document_v2.4.pdf) replacing previous Road to Zero principles.

- 3. Why wasn't there any public consultation on this?***

Public consultation was not required. This was an internal NZTA decision using our standard approvals process, considering many factors including past and current community sentiment for guidance, as well as the original public consultation feedback.

- 4. I'd request Waka Kotahi provide copies of the correspondence they received highlighting these concerns (and they must be written otherwise you are going off verbal concerns and hearsay?)***

No new written correspondence has been received. Official feedback and community sentiment received during previous rounds of public consultation, and more recently via discussions with local residents has been considered as part of NZTA's decision making process.

NZTA is confident in its decision to not proceed with the installation of median barriers as part of the SH16 improvements project, however, this does not preclude the opportunity for NZTA to look at alternative safety interventions in the future.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact the project team at SH16SafetyImprove@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AS', followed by a long horizontal line.

Andrew Stevens

National Manager Infrastructure Delivery