

How to Go About It

The blank RDC form 'Roading Request Form' may be collected from Council at the time of applying for building consent. However, note that the vehicle crossing involves a process quite separate from the Building Consent process.

- The owner should select a Council-approved Vehicle Crossing Contractor. (A list is available from Council.)
- The Contractor, on the owner's behalf, should complete and submit the 'Roading Request Form'
(Construction standards are available from Council, and, depending on the nature of the project, a bond may be required.)
- The Contractor should submit a 'Street Opening Notice' and a 'Traffic Management Plan' at least 7 days prior to the proposed beginning of construction.
- The Contractor must receive Council's written approval before actually beginning construction.
- Three site inspections are required during construction.
- Upon satisfactory construction of the crossing to the required standard, any relevant bond will be returned.

Note: Depending on the site and the building project, the owner may elect to construct the crossing either **before** or **after** the other site works and heavy traffic associated with them.

Did You Know?

Substandard Vehicle Crossings

Due either to lack of awareness, to negligence, or to other historical factors, the district contains a number of existing vehicle crossings which do not meet the required standards.

The Local Government Act and the Council Bylaw allows for any existing crossing found by Council to be substandard or in a state of disrepair to be upgraded at the owner/occupier's expense.

Copies of the Roading Policy and other related documents may be viewed at the Council offices.

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Manawatu District Council

Vehicle Crossings

Whose responsibility are they?

How to do them well.



Rangitikei
Respectfully...

Manawatu District Council



This brochure describes

- what a vehicle crossing is
- why it is important to have it built properly
- who holds the responsibility for its installation and maintenance
- when to consider work on a vehicle crossing
- how to go about it safely and well

What is a Vehicle Crossing?

A vehicle crossing is the pavement structure which extends from the edge of the road carriage way to the front boundary of the individual property concerned. It is normally positioned to connect with the likes of a residential driveway, a farm race, or a rural gateway into a paddock.



What's at Stake?

When property constructed, the vehicle crossing carries traffic from the road carriage way into the private property across the road berm and important infrastructural features (such as footpath, drainage channel, water main, sewer line, power, gas, telephone, etc.). A properly constructed vehicle crossing provides convenient, reliable, and long-lasting access to the private property without compromising road safety or damaging community assets or neighbouring properties.

- Substandard vehicle crossings, on the other hand, can have drastic negative effects on both individual properties and also wider community assets. They have the potential to:
 - cause flooding onto roads and into neighbouring properties by obstructing the natural watercourse or other drainage structures
 - cause metal, silt, or debris to be deposited onto the road or, conversely, into private properties
 - cause damage to footpaths, thus presenting a hazard to pedestrians, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, etc.
 - jeopardise underground services and utilities
 - present traffic hazards by impeding safe and efficient entry into and exit from the traffic flow
 - create unforeseen maintenance costs for future property owners or occupiers



Whose Responsibility?

Since the crossing exists solely to serve the individual property rather than the wider community, the responsibility for its installation and maintenance falls with the landowner.

However, since the vehicle crossing lies within the road reserve, it must be constructed to Council's standards. It exists not as a matter of right but rather at Council's pleasure. As noted above, the construction of the crossing has impacts beyond the individual property.

Constructing or modifying a vehicle crossing without Council's approval is not permitted. (Section 335 Local Government Act 1974.)

When to Act

So, before purchasing any property, potential owners are strongly encouraged to assess the status of any existing vehicle crossings. The standards required for urban and rural crossings are available from Council.

Any landowner wishing to alter any feature of a property which might affect the vehicle crossing needs to apply in writing to Council. This includes building a new building, demolishing a building, relocating a building, or engaging in any other activity which may damage the existing crossing, footpath, kerb and channel, etc.