

Berry Road misses out on safety upgrade

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Over the past two years, millions of dollars have been spent on upgrading Toodyay Road.

Once again Berry Road – one of the most-dangerous intersections on the main road – has been excluded from the on-going program to improve road safety.

Local residents recently wrote to the Commissioner of Main Roads WA identifying the non-compliance of the intersection and asked for an explanation for the road's omission from the works program.

The residents petitioned that: "The narrowing of Toodyay Road at the Berry Road intersection together with the reduced line-of-sight, traffic speed and lack of provision for vehicles turning into Berry Road is a perfect storm when combined with increasing heavy-vehicle traffic."

Acting Traffic Services Co-ordinator North-East Metro, Tony Egan, responded with the following: "We acknowledge that existing intersections may not meet today's standards and Main Roads has to seek funding to improve them.

"As you would be aware, Berry Road was constructed many years ago when traffic was a lot lighter."

In response to the residents' concern that the increasing heavy-vehicle traffic through the intersection had produced "incidents, accidents and one known fatality", Mr Egan said that "the road has had one reported crash in the last five years.

"This means that there are a substantive number of intersections with a higher priority to treat with the limited funds available," he said.

This is cold comfort for Toodyay Road motorists who recall numerous potentially fatal near-misses at the intersection. Many locals have been left wondering whether some of the improvements could have been scaled back, freeing up funds for effective, basic improvements to other intersections.

The Gidgegannup Progress Association will present the Berry Road petitioners' letter to the joint community-government meeting with Main Roads WA and City of Swan in May.