

## **Trialling best value delineation treatments for rural roads**

**Jared Thomas, Joel Burton, Vince Dravitzki, Bill Frith, Jovana Balanovic, Grace Rive, Nicola Hancock**  
*Opus International Consultants, Opus Research*

**Samuel Charlton**  
*University of Waikato, Hamilton*

**Fergus Tate**  
*New Zealand Transport Agency, Wellington*

Providing a safe, comfortable, cost-effective visual environment to help drivers navigate rural roads requires a better understanding of the strengths and limitations of different delineation devices, materials, and treatment configurations to better understand where we may be over or under delivering across the network. An international literature review examined different options to test on low-volume rural New Zealand road settings, and an expert panel prioritised four of these options to be trialled.

On-road trials were run to examine delineation configurations and materials that could provide better value and improved driver comfort on rural roads. The treatments trialled included targeted delineation (to assist drivers in intuitively signalling more difficult parts of the road network), consolidation (where one configuration with a new product might replace two traditional products), and better delineation in rain, which is arguably a common poor visibility environment (where crashes are over-represented). The findings and lessons provide new information about the importance of complementary devices, including edge marker posts (EMPs) and Raised Reflectorised Pavement Markings (RRPMs) in different contexts. Finally, to help implement better delineation solutions across lower volume rural roads, practical updates to rural road delineation guidance in relation to the One Network Road Classification (ONRC) will be discussed.