

Report **04.154**
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Committee **Regional Land Transport**
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Major Project Investigation Priorities

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend priorities for investigating major projects so that they are ready for consideration in the non-block construction programme as soon as possible.

2. Background

Major investigation projects are defined in Transit's terminology as potential projects. This year Transit has supplied a list of 9 projects in alphabetical order. The list is:

Project Name	Notes
Aotea Quay off ramp realignment	Considered last year
Basin Reserve interchange	Considered last year, in the non-block construction list
Kennedy Good interchange	Transit's only addition to last year's list
MacKay's Crossing overbridge	Now committed so there is no need to consider this project's priority
Ngauranga to Aotea Quay 8 laning	Considered last year
Peka Peka to Poplar 4 laning – stage 1	Considered last year
Petone – Ngauranga auxiliary lane	Considered last year
Pukerua Bay bypass	Considered last year
Transmission Gully Motorway (TGM)	Considered last year, but renamed Western Corridor package

Summary descriptions of these projects are shown in **Attachment 2**.

With the exception of the Kennedy Good interchange project, all projects in this category were considered by the Committee last year.

3. Additional projects

The Technical Working Group (TWG) considered the following 11 additions were necessary to this category:

Project Name	Notes
Petone to Grenada	Hutt Corridor Plan, joint investigation with WCC & HCC
Valley Floor Connector	Hutt Corridor Plan, joint investigation with HCC
Improve routes between Hutt & Kapiti / Porirua	Hutt Corridor Plan, joint investigation with KCDC, PCC, UHCC, HCC
Otaki – Te Horo expressway	Considered last year but dropped by Transit last year for the time being following public consultation that concluded this was not a short-term priority.
Whitford Brown interchange	Urgent if TGM is delayed, joint investigation with PCC
Waikanae rail/ road/ town centre package	
Paekakariki intersection and flooding	Urgent if TGM is delayed
Pukerua Bay - Otaki passing lanes	Required if TGM is delayed
Mana - Plimmerton beyond interim works	Required if TGM is delayed
Coastal Highway upgrade	Required if TGM is delayed
Additional rail upgrade	Required if TGM is delayed

These additional projects have arisen from:

- the recent adoption of the Hutt Corridor Plan;
- the inclusion of low priority investigations considered last year but not included by Transit on the list this year; and
- the identification of a number of projects that require investigation, possibly urgently, if the outcome of current studies show the TGM project will again be delayed while it is premature to specify the focus of these investigations, it is considered appropriate to flag them as some clarity is anticipated after this prioritisation process but before next year's National Land Transport Programme is determined in the middle of this year.

4. Technical ranking

The TWG met on three occasions (19 February, 4 and 8 March) to complete this year's technical process. The method used to achieve the recommended rankings was the Transport Package and Project Prioritisation Method as set out in report 04.152. The technical scores are shown in **Attachment 1**. These scores are the officer's best estimate of the likely benefits that the project will produce. Further investigation is required to confirm the scores.

5. Discussion

The TWG acknowledged that gaining certainty about the timing of the Transmission Gully motorway project was critical to allowing determination of the region's strategic transport investment plan. However, it was acknowledged that the TGM project was only one component of a package of integrated transport improvements that make up the Western Corridor Plan, so it is suggested that Transit change the name and scope of their TGM investigation project to capture the full significance of the proposals. The new package name would be "Western Corridor Package". It clearly ranked as the top priority for completing investigations.

There are three roading projects focused on reducing congestion and improving accessibility in the core of the Region's strategic road network, that is in the Ngauranga-Petone-Aotea Quay area. The TWG agreed that it was a high priority to develop these three projects simultaneously (in an integrated way) to the stage where solid information could be used to determine how soon they should be delivered. Gaining certainty about this area was clearly the 2nd priority.

The next group of four projects were ranked 5th equal, not because they are related, in fact they are geographically remote from each other, but because they all had similar technical merit.

6. Communications

There is nothing to communicate as a result of determining priorities for recommendation to Transit's current consultation process.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- i) requests Transit change the name of the 'TGM investigation' project to 'Western Corridor package investigation' to better reflect the scope of this work;*
- ii) adopts the following priorities for recommendation to Council and for submission to Transit New Zealand; and*

Project	RLTC 2003 Rank	2004 Recommended Rank
<i>Western Corridor package investigation</i>	1	1
<i>Petone to Grenada</i>		2=
<i>Ngauranga to Aotea Quay 8 laning</i>	2	2=
<i>Petone - Ngauranga auxiliary lane</i>	3	2=
<i>Valley Floor Connector</i>		5=
<i>Peka Peka to Poplar 4 laning - Stage 1</i>	6	5=
<i>Improve routes between Hutt & Kapiti/Porirua</i>		5=
<i>Waikanae rail/road/town centre package</i>		5=
<i>Aotea Quay off-ramp realignment</i>	7	9
<i>Otaki - Te Horo expressway</i>	8	10
<i>Whitford Brown grade separation</i>		11
<i>Rimutaka Hill 70 kph design</i>	5	12
<i>Paekakariki intersection & flooding</i>		13
<i>SH2/Kelson grade separation</i>		14
<i>SH1 Pukerua Bay - Otaki passing lanes</i>		15
<i>Pukerua Bay bypass designation</i>	4	20
<i>Mana Plimmerton beyond interim improvements</i>		20
<i>Coastal Highway upgrade</i>		20
<i>Additional Rail upgrade</i>		20

iii) *requests Transit urgently establish joint working arrangements with partnering authorities to progress investigations in the Western Corridor and in the Ngauranga-Petone-Aotea area.*

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Attachments

1. Scoring spreadsheet for State Highway proposed Investigations priorities for 2004/05
2. Summary Major Investigation Project Descriptions