



Report 07.74
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Committee Regional Land Transport
Author Joe Hewitt Manager, Transport Strategy
Development

Draft State Highway Forecast and Funding Priorities

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Chair of the Committee to approve a submission to Transit New Zealand (Transit) on the draft State Highway Land Transport Programme and to recommend funding priorities to Land Transport NZ.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

3.1 Transit's Draft Land Transport Programme

Transit will publish and consult on its 2007/08 annual programme in the next 2 months. In recent years, Transit has incorporated forward planning in each annual programme, so there should be few surprises this year. Relatively debated matters in this region such as SH58 and east-west road link timings, Transmission Gully Motorway design and costs and Ngauranga-Airport projects and timing are all subject to already funded studies that report later this year. Transit requires submissions on its draft programme by mid March.

3.2 Land Transport NZ's Prioritisation Process

Land Transport NZ will shortly issue an indicative allocation of national (N), regional (R) and Crown (C) funds and requests that the Committee advise them of the region's priorities for spending R and C funds by early April.

4. Comment

As the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) review process will still be underway during March and April, any changes to the Regional Transport Programme (RTP) will not be formalised by the time the above submissions are due. The RTP may be revised following the consideration of submissions on the draft RLTS. That revised RTP will be used to inform 2008/09 planning processes. A simple submission on the Transit draft programme for 2007/08 would be appropriate for the Committee, subject to “no surprises”.

As Transit requires submissions by mid March, there will be no suitable meeting of the Committee to approve the submission. It is therefore recommended that the Chair be delegated authority to approve a submission on behalf of the Committee.

Advice can be provided to Land Transport NZ based on the RTP, as shown in the draft RLTS. This identifies the following projects and activities as the short term (next five years) priorities for the use of R and C funds:

- A combination of R and C1 to enhance passenger transport, including assistance with local share, consistent with the outcome of the Wellington Transport Project and including rail improvements in the Western Corridor
- Nominally \$5 million C1 to accelerate cycle facility improvement programmes, including assistance with local share
- Nominally \$10 million R to accelerate the state highway block programme
- Nominally \$37 million C1 to construct SH2/58 grade separation
- C2 to advance investigation and preparation for Grenada to Gracefield stage1
- Nominally \$60 million R to construct Petone to Ngauranga fifth lane (as a tidal flow high occupancy toll lane) and cycleway
- C2 to assist local share with Kapiti’s Western Link Road
- Nominally \$2 million R to implement Pukerua Bay safety improvements, provided timing is advanced ahead of normal N funding priority
- Nominally \$1 million R to implement Paekakariki traffic signals, provided timing is advanced ahead of normal N funding priority
- Nominally \$10 million R to construct Rimutaka corner easing “Muldoon’s Corner”.

Note that the figures quoted above will be subject to change as the scope and timing of the projects are developed.

5. Communication

The final submissions will be circulated to members. No further communication will be necessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report;
2. **Notes** the content of the report;
3. **Delegates** to the Chair of the Regional Land Transport Committee authority to approve a submission to Transit New Zealand on the draft Land Transport Programme 2007/08; and
4. **Agrees** that the following priorities for R and C funding be advised to Land Transport NZ noting that the figures quoted below will be subject to change as the scope and timing of the projects is developed:
 - A combination of R and C1 to enhance passenger transport, including assistance with local share, consistent with the outcome of the Wellington Transport Project and including rail improvements in the Western Corridor
 - Nominally \$5 million C1 to accelerate cycle facility improvements programmes, including assistance with local share
 - Nominally \$10 million R to accelerate the state highway block programme
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Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Joe Hewitt
Manager, Transport Strategy
Development

Jane Davis
Divisional Manager Transport
Policy and Strategy