

Report No:	RRTC11-10-01
File No:	
Date:	14 October 2011
<i>Information Only – no decision required</i>	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Regional Transport Committee

Meeting Date: 9 March 2012

Report Author: Jenny Chetwynd – Regional Director-General, New Zealand Transport Agency

Subject: **UPDATE FROM THE NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is:

- to provide an update on the New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) role in the delivery of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the National Land Transport Programme in the Tasman Region; and
- to provide an update on key initiatives that may impact the strategic development of the regional transport network

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Regional Transport Committee receives the Update from the New Zealand Transport Agency report, RRTC12-03-01.

Report No:	RRTC11-10-02
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Report to: Regional Transport Committee

Meeting Date: 9 March 2012

Report Author: Jenny Chetwynd – Regional Director-General, New Zealand Transport Agency

Subject: **UPDATE FROM THE NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY**

1 2009-12 NLTP Implementation Update

1.1 Update on Tasman State Highway & Network Ops Activities

The annual maintenance sealing programme is underway with a total of almost 40km of sealing programmed for completion by mid March 2012. Included in the programme is resurfacing of Motueka High Street between King Edward Street and Low Street. NZTA and TDC staff are working closely together to coordinate the resurfacing and drainage renewal work in the area, and address the pedestrian crossing issues in Motueka township.

- 1.2 Investigation and design for the Maruia Erosion works to protect and reinstate a section of SH65 has commenced. We expected to go to tender for construction works in early April 2012.



1.3 Retaining structures at Hope Saddle, Kawatiri, and Shenandoah Saddle have recently been completed. These projects have stabilised the highway where it was in danger of slipping away.

1.4 **Birds Hill**

Following the major rainfall event in December 2011 a major slip on the Takaka side of Birds Hill affected both lanes of a 50m section of SH60. Recognising the importance of SH60 as a lifeline to the Golden Bay community over the summer holidays, in less than 48 hours we established a single lane access on the top side of the slip capable of taking milk tankers. This involved extending a 900 diameter culvert, filling the gully and cutting rock batters at each ends. Some in the industry called it a “minor miracle”. The next steps, over the next 6–9 months are to widen the highway through this section to restore two-lane access.



- 1.5 The Nelson Tasman Network Maintenance Contract was recently awarded to Opus International Consultants. Two tenders were received for the contract which is for a three year term.
- 1.6 Further detail on the 2009-2012 state highway programme is available in Appendix 1.

2.0 Other NZTA and Ministry of Transport Initiatives of Regional Significance

2.1 2012-15 RLTP and NLTP Development

Significance to RTC	RLTP and NLTP development - Moderation
Details	<p>NZTA has been working with council staff on the development of the Draft 2012/15 Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP), as a key input into the 2012/15 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). The RTC have been regularly updated throughout this development on issues such as prioritisation and moderation.</p> <p>Following the submission of the draft RLTP in November 2011, a regional moderation process was undertaken in January led by the NZTA Regional Planning and Investment Manager and his team but working directly with Council Officers. This moderation was to ensure that the indicative profiles applied by the project owner are fair and appropriate.</p> <p>The national moderation workshop was held on 22 and 23 February 2012. This workshop takes the national view, to ensure a nationally consistent approach to project evaluation (profiles). It also the being of the moderation process to identify across the country, the projects demonstrating the best value for money and closest alignment with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding (GPS). This process will take into account regional priorities and the available sources of funding. A verbal update on national moderation will be provided at the meeting. Another national moderation alignment meeting is due to be held on 7 March 2012.</p>

2.2 High Productivity Motor Vehicle (HPMV) routes

Significance to RTC	Supporting the provision of effective connections for economic growth and productivity
Details	<p>The investigation of HPMV routes across the top of the South Island is complete. NZTA has identified potential routes and road improvement projects to enable State Highway to be used as a HPMV route. These projects have been included in the NZTA submission to the draft RLTP 2012/15. This activity will be undertaken in conjunction with Nelson City Council and reflects heavy traffic movements between Tasman and the Port of Nelson.</p>

2.3 Road Maintenance Taskforce

Significance to RTC	Potential impact on future RLTP development
Details	<p>Earlier this year the government announced the establishment of a Road Maintenance Task Force to identify how we can best deliver road maintenance activities and maintain appropriate levels of service in the years ahead. Members of the task force have been drawn from local government, the NZTA and the industry.</p> <p>The task force is now in the measurement phase and due to complete its work by March/April 2012. An industry meeting has been arranged to discuss the findings and analysis Tuesday 28 February. The NZTA will also be undertaking a detailed internal review and results of this expected out in mid 2012, with a view to including key recommendations in contracts tendered in 2013.</p>

2.4 Implementing the Safer Journey's

Significance to RTC	Key national safety initiative
Changes to give way rule	<p>As you are aware, at 5.00am on Sunday 25 March 2011, two of the give way rules are changing to make New Zealand's roads safer. The proposed changes to the give way rule are among the first actions in the Government's Safer Journeys, its 10-year road safety strategy. Research has indicated that changing the rules could reduce relevant intersection crashes by seven percent.</p> <p>Letters updating progress about the Give Way Rule Change, including links to our public information campaign and resources have been sent to RTC chairs, Council's CE's, Roading Managers, Communication staff and Road Safety Coordinators. To avoid public confusion we asked that the resources were not used until 29 February to minimise the risk of people starting to use the new rules too early, and is based on best practice advice from Victoria, Australia, when they changed a similar rule.</p>
Changes to the Restricted Driver Test	<p>A new Restricted Driver Test came into effect on 27 February 2012. The changes will mean that for young drivers and their parents, a substantial amount of supervised practice will be needed to prepare for and pass the harder test. The more complex and challenging test also means that many current test locations are no longer suitable, and practical testing will be discontinued at 36 locations across the country.</p> <p>There are two sites in the Tasman region where test routes have been withdrawn, Takaka and Motueka. Current testing services at these locations were provided at infrequent intervals and small number of tests was conducted. Both sites have not been formally assessed because; the location did not meet the requirements for the current Full Licence Test, providing neither the traffic volume or traffic situation criteria needed for the</p>

	<p>tougher test. The alternative site for both Takaka and Motueka is Nelson.</p> <p>While the Government requires all public agencies to identify efficiency savings, the changes are another action to implement the Government's Safer Journeys road safety strategy. The longer and more challenging restricted driving practical test will deliver improved safety outcomes for young and novice drivers. The experience that young drivers gain in the learner licence phase can help protect them once they start to drive alone. Research shows that young drivers who complete 120 hours of supervised practice on their learner licence have a solo-driving crash rate 40% lower than those who only complete 50 hours.</p>
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2.5 Tasman Emergency Works Funding – Totaranui Road

Significance to RTC	Economic Prosperity – Abel Tasman
Details	<p>After the severe weather event in December 2011, Totaranui Road was blocked in several places with slips and drop outs. Because it is a special purpose road, the NZTA will fully fund all repairs and maintenance. However, the initial estimates for repair were as high as \$15m and further investigation was required to ensure all options and alternatives are considered. Fortunately, more detailed site inspections concluded that repair costs were going to be significantly less and a figure of \$2m has now been quoted.</p> <p>NZTA have advised Tasman District Council to begin repairs, and once the claim has been submitted into Transport Investment Online, it can be approved for drawdown.</p>

3.0 Recommendation

That the report be received.

4.0 Draft Resolution

THAT the Regional Transport Committee receives the Update from the New Zealand Transport Agency report, RRTC12-03-01.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Tasman State Highway and Network Ops Activities in the 2009-2012 NLTP