

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee  
**FROM:** Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager  
**DATE:** 24 March 2009  
**SUBJECT:** **TRANSPORTATION REPORT - MARCH**

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## 1 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

### General

The maintenance contracts are performing satisfactorily. There have been issues with late completion of some customer service requests. The contractor has given a firm commitment to improve performance in this area urgently.

### New Road Maintenance Contracts

The tenders for the new Waimea and Tasman maintenance contracts have closed and are currently being evaluated. Five tenders were received for Waimea and four for Tasman. The evaluation report with recommendations based on non-price attributes will be presented to the Engineering Manager on 30 March 2009 followed by opening of price envelopes, a recommendation to the Tenders Subcommittee and subsequent final approval by Council is expected by 16 April 2009.

### Salisbury Historic Swing Footbridge - Aorere River

This bridge is still open to the public, with new maximum loading restriction signs in place and is being checked regularly. Permanent repair options are being worked through in conjunction with the Historic Places Trust with respect to appropriate materials and design to preserve this heritage structure.

## 2 PROJECTS

- **Black Bridge, Motueka Valley Highway**

The new bridge is complete. Sealing of the realigned approaches will begin on 24 March with the project on track for completion in early April, ahead of the due date of 5 June. The Chairman has suggested an official public opening which will be arranged for this long-awaited improvement.

- **Bridge Repair Contract**

A structural repair contract is being prepared and expected to be tendered in April. Repairs have been scoped and prioritised following detailed inspections.

- **Cobb Powerhouse Bridge**

Seismic upgrade work is currently out to invited tenders, closing on 1 April. The work is a cost-share arrangement between TDC, DOC and TrustPower. The painting has been deferred as it is not considered necessary at this time.

- **Bridge Valley & Moore Road Seal Extension**

Construction is 40% complete and due for completion in April.

- **Talbot/Salisbury Intersection**

The tender has been awarded to Chings. Construction is due to begin on 31 March with completion in June.

- **Minor Safety Improvements**

A contract of works has been awarded to IKC with completion due 31 May. Other minor improvements are progressing as part of roading maintenance contracts.

- **Footpaths/Walkways/Cycleways**

NZTA funding for the Railway Reserve (Richmond) and Lower Moutere cycleways is approved and tenders will be advertised in April. NZTA are currently reviewing the funding application for the Rototai Road cycleway. A contract for new footpaths is being prepared and will be tendered in April.

- **Emergency Works**

Detailed inspections of slip sites from the November 2008 event are complete. A risk assessment and priority ranking is due by 31 March, and a contract will be advertised in April.

- **Resealing**

Resealing is 90% complete and on track for completion in March.

- **Pavement Rehabilitation**

Works are 50% complete and on track for completion by 30 April.

- **Back Block Roding**

A similar issue to Rameka Creek and Upper Wairoa Gorge has arisen with a private bridge on legal road off of Awaroa Road. The Council has placed weight restriction signs on the bridge, pending any upgrading work.

- **Tasman Regional Walk and Cycle Five Year Action Plan**

The draft action plan and six-year infrastructure programme was approved by the Committee at its 16 October 2008 meeting to progress to public consultation. Work on this consultation was delayed due to the work required on the Ten Year Plan and staff shortages in transportation. We have now ended up publishing our Draft Ten Year Plan ahead of the proposed consultation on the draft Walk and Cycle Action Plan/Programme. The Ten Year Plan document is generally consistent with the proposed draft Action Plan/Programme, and will adequately serve the consultation needs of Council regarding all proposed walking and cycling projects.

Therefore at this stage it is planned to further delay any new work on the Regional Walk and Cycle Plan until after the Ten Year Plan is adopted by Council in June. It is now proposed to re-develop the Walk and Cycle Plan as part of the new Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) 2009, which is being prepared for the Tasman Regional Transport Committee and expected to be available for full public consultation in October 2009. The revised Walk and Cycle Plan will be one of several plans supporting the new RLTS, including a Passenger Transport Plan, and a Travel Demand Management Plan.

All stakeholders groups, interested parties and Community Boards will be advised in writing of the delayed programme, and will be given an assurance that they will still be able to fully participate in commenting on Council's new transport plans and strategies.

## **3 RIVERS**

### **3.1 Annual River Maintenance Programme**

There has been a significant improvement in the contractor's performance in carrying out the scheduled annual river maintenance programme and the contractor has been able to meet their predicted revised works work programme for the month.

The contractor has also confirmed their capacity to carry out an additional \$180,000 worth of work carried forward from last year's works programme.

Progress is being monitored with the contractors two-monthly forward works programme.

### **3.2 Annual Operations Maintenance Programme (AOMP) 2009/10**

River Care and other interest groups have been invited to identify any river works for consideration to be included into the AOMP for 2009/10.

At this stage the offer to participate in the scheduling of work has only been taken up by one group in the Dovedale area.

### **3.3 Lower Motueka River - Vegetation Clearance**

The contractor has commenced in the clearing of mainly crack willow in the lower reaches of the Motueka River from fairways and berm areas. This is in preparation for the riparian management of native plants that will tie in with the proposed future Motueka Stopbank Enhancement project.

## **4 ROAD SAFETY COORDINATION**

### **4.1 Bike Wise – February 2009**

The nationally led NZTA Bike Wise campaign ran during February with local cycle groups and shops, Way 2 Go hubs, police and other volunteers helping to run the local events.

- **Family Fun Rides**

These were free rides to encourage families to get on their bikes with spot prizes and other activities happening at each ride.

- Richmond – nearly 500 cyclists took part in this ride
- Takaka – 160 cyclists took part (slight increase from last year), from a 3 year old on trainer wheels to a 73 year old cyclist.
- Motueka – postponed due to heavy rain, re-scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- **Go By Bike Day**

Cyclists joined others for a breakfast snack on their way to work/school at Richmond, Takaka, Motueka and Murchison.

### **4.2 Child restraints checking clinics**

During the national police restraint campaign (8–14 March) voluntary child restraint checking clinics were held in Richmond, Stoke and Nelson and compulsory checkpoints at locations throughout Tasman and Nelson. This was a joint campaign involving Tasman District and Nelson City Councils, the Police, Plunket, Baby on the Move and local garages. Public

awareness was also raised through print and radio coverage and information distributed through kindergartens.

The checks showed there were a high number of seats that were incorrectly fitted. If the seat could not be correctly fitted on site the Police (who were present at every checkpoint and clinic) issued an infringement notice. Those who were given a notice then had 14 days to fix the problem and get it re-checked by a trained car seat fitter. If the seat then complied the infringement was cancelled. People were given advice on how to fix their safety problems, a number of free anchor bolts were given out (this was one of the major non-compliance issues) and at two of the clinics a local garage was on site to fix the bolts into cars.

Numbers of actual checks carried out, infringement notices written and how many of these have been cancelled is still being calculated.

Over 700 child restraints were checked and out of these just over half went into a prize draw for having a correctly fitted seat. More details will follow in next month's report.

### **4.3 Walk 2 Work Day**

Walk 2 Work Day was a national campaign led by Living Streets Aotearoa to encourage people to walk to work. Locally Council staff, Walk Nelson Tasman members and the Nelson-Marlborough DHB toasted breakfast snacks for the 40 walkers who walked to Sundial Square on their walk to work. Five students from Waimea College took up the challenge and walked to school from Brightwater.

This was the first time such an event had been held.

### **4.4 School Travel Plans**

The Wakefield STP has been written and was launched in February with a number of initiatives to encourage walking and cycling to school already underway. For example the school and school travel planner are leading a push to get a two Walking School Busses established; cycle training will be run before the end of this term; a Kea Crossing will be established before the end of this financial year; enforcement by the police will be carried out in areas of concern.

The Brightwater STP is nearing completion with further consultation to be carried out during the school gala. This information will then be made into action points that will involve engineering, enforcement and encouragement solutions.

In term 2 2009 surveys will be completed by Waimea Intermediate, Waimea College, Salisbury School and St Paul's as a starting process of a school travel plan that will look at issues on the Salisbury Road cluster of schools.

### **4.5 Fatigue**

Another round of fatigue vouchers are to be printed that will be valid until the end of this financial year. The last round of vouchers had a higher redemption rate with 10% of all vouchers so far having been redeemed. This is joint project with ACC, Marlborough Roads, NZTA, police, The Interislander ferry and local distribution points and cafes that has run across the top of the south island. There has been lots of plenty of positive feedback from all involved.

#### **4.6 Safety map**

In another joint project with ACC, NCC, NZTA and the police a map is being produced that will highlight popular routes across the top of the south island. For each of these routes there will be site specific safety information such as hazardous road conditions, high crash areas and similar. The map will be distributed via the Cook Strait Ferries, tourist services operators and services to motorists such as petrol stations and in conjunction with the fatigue vouchers.

#### **4.7 Motorcycle training courses**

Next dates have been set – April 25<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> to be run at Waimea College.

### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT this report be received.**

Peter Thomson  
**Engineering Manager**