

PUBLIC FORUM SPIEL 19.2.19 by Jim Butler

Every summer for the last 30 years or so, traffic congestion in the Motueka High St provokes a cry for a bypass. While agreeing that a Motueka Bypass must be provided sometime, this grumpy old ratepayer points out that its provision will come at a cost. For while NZTA would fund out of fuel tax, the many millions required for the bypass, that will probably include a new bridge. But on the completion of this bypass, NZTA will hand over to TDC the roading it bypasses, that will probably include the old bridge. The maintenance costs of which will then have to be funded by us ratepayers.

In spite the many proposals, reviews, consultations and plans produced over the last 30 years, much at the cost to us ratepayers, NZTA has given no priority to the provision of a Motueka bypass. Arguing that for most of the time there is no traffic congestion on the Motueka High St, and when there is, the delays can be measured in minutes, rather than in hours, as occurs elsewhere. Secondly NZTA has argued that a bypass of sorts already exists, via Old Wharf Rd, Thorp St and Fearon St.

But no Ward Councillor or Community Board Member is likely to support such a proposal, if they want to be re-elected later this year, For it would go down like a lead balloon with many of us voters.