

26 June 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-15628

Dear [REDACTED]

### Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 12 June 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will respond to each part of your request in turn as follows:

*Please provide a copy of the current guidelines NZTA requires Councils to follow regarding joint funding of footpath renewals. (55% NZTA, 45% Councils)*

Work Category guidelines regarding footpath renewal (WC 225) are available on our website at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/planning-and-investment-knowledge-base/2024-27-nltp-investment-requirements/2024-27-nltp-activity-classes-and-work-categories/walking-and-cycling/wc-225-footpath-renewal-2/>

*Please provide the definition of 'renewal' and in particular in what condition the existing footpath including what current material (concrete, tar-seal, gravel etc.) has to be to fall into this definition to qualify for renewal funding.*

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will co-fund the renewal of public footpaths and facilities which include stairs, alleyways and off-road connections. While NZTA does not have a formal definition of "renewal", our policies give examples of what can be funded as a renewal and what is excluded. Our Investment Advisors are flexible when applying judgement within those policies. Examples of qualifying activities, but may not be limited to, include:

- footpath renewals, such as resurfacing or reconstruction
- renewal of any associated drainage, structures and bridges
- renewal of footpath lighting assets.

Explicitly excluded from funding as a footpath renewal are:

- pavement repairs prior to carrying out resurfacing (this is funded under "maintenance")
- shared walking and cycling facilities (these are funded under "cycleway renewals")
- second coat sealing of footpaths within subdivisions, as this is deemed to be part of subdivisional construction and does not qualify for assistance
- improvements to and expansion of the footpath network and associated facilities (this is funded as "improvements").

To qualify for funding, the work must be the long-term, best cost option calculated in terms of present value to maintain the appropriate level of service. This effectively means that a renewal will be funded if it is cheaper than maintaining the facility in its current state. The renewal also has to be the same standard as the existing condition – except where modern guidelines or standards require a change, otherwise it would be considered an improvement and not a renewal.

*Please provide the renewal funding figure, that has been allocated to Southland District Council for the next three years, from 2024 to 2027.*

Southland District Council has indicatively been allocated \$92.7 million funding for its road maintenance programme over the 2024-27 period. The funding amount will be confirmed when the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) is finalised later this year.

*Please provide information if Central Government has indicated a change of the above funding policy and/or criteria, and if so, state what they are and what date these are expected to be policy.*

The draft 2024 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) sets out the Government's four strategic priorities for expenditure from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF). It also provides direction to local government, KiwiRail and NZTA on the types of activities that should be included in Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs) and the NLTP.

The Government is committed to delivering certain priority projects which are named in the draft GPS, but this is not an exhaustive list of all projects expected to be funded and delivered from the NLTF or other Crown funding. Regarding specific local projects not identified by name, provided they meet the priorities of the draft GPS, they could be considered for NLTF funding. Their priority, and timeframe for construction, would then be a matter for NZTA to consider along with other regional projects.

Once consultation has concluded on the draft GPS, a final will then be issued. RLTPs should be revised to reflect the priorities of the new GPS, with the NLTP ultimately confirming later this year how NLTF funding will be spent over the next three years.

In line with NZTA policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact us by email to [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Robyn Elston**  
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