

9 December 2024



REF: OIA-16936

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All advice NZTA's board has received about potential options for SH1 Wellington Improvements Road of National Significance.

All reports or relevant documents relating to the long tunnel option.

On 15 November 2024 you clarified that the scope of your request should include all options considered, and a timeframe of 1 January 2024 to 13 November 2024.

The documents falling in scope of your request are outlined in the below document schedule. I can confirm the majority of information is due to be published as part of a proactive release of advice from NZTA to the Minister of Transport and the NZTA Board in the coming weeks.

I am therefore refusing your request for documents 1, 2, and 4 under section 18(d) of the Act because the information requested will soon be publicly available. We will write to you again as soon as the information is published.

Please note certain information from the documents will be withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

In relation to documents 3 and 5, these are released to you in-part, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) in order to protect NZTA's obligation of confidence to our Board and its

consideration of the investment case for the State Highway 1 (SH1) Wellington Improvements project in 2025.

The package of improvements, including a duplicate Mt Victoria Tunnel, improvements to the Basin Reserve, and a duplicate Terrace Tunnel, was considered to strike the best balance between cost and economic benefits for the Wellington region. This option will deliver significant economic and productivity benefits through travel time savings and reliability while at the same time increasing the resilience of the SH1 corridor and improving safety. It will also improve travel times and reliability for key public transport routes.

I note there are elements of the dismissed options (the long tunnel) which are being taken forward as part of the preferred package of improvements. As these elements remain under development to be considered by the Board, certain details have been withheld for the time being.

The project will now move through an investment case, which will be brought back to the NZTA Board for consideration by mid-2025, with NZTA considering opportunities to begin enabling works in 2026.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of this request and to withhold some information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Elston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robyn Elston
National Manager System Design

OIA-16936 Document Schedule

Ref	Document	Date	Refused and / or information withheld
1.	Workshop – Wellington Long Tunnel	22 August 2024	Refused under section 18(d) as will soon be publicly available
2.	RoNS Monthly Report for July 2024	26 July 2024	Refused under section 18(d) as will soon be publicly available
3.	Update for Approval SH1 Wellington Improvements	18 October 2024	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii)
4.	Fast-Track Approvals Bill – Listed Projects – Summary project list	16 May 2024	Refused under section 18(d) as will soon be publicly available
5.	Additional Information – SH1 Wellington Improvements updated Board Paper	8 November 2024	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii)