

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Meeting with Mayor Paula Southgate of Hamilton City Council on 28 July 2022
Date	25 July 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2527

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
David Speirs	Director Regional Relationships (Waikato/Bay of Plenty)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

25 July 2022

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

MEETING WITH MAYOR PAULA SOUTHGATE – WALKING AND CYCLING SAFETY AND PROJECTS

Purpose

1. This briefing informs you ahead of the meeting you have with Hamilton City Council (HCC) elected representatives on 28 July 2022 to discuss funding opportunities for cycling improvements in Hamilton.
2. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has worked closely with HCC to plan and support delivery of the current and proposed walking, cycling and micro mobility projects and Waka Kotahi is generally supportive of HCC's proposals.

Background

Recent cyclist fatality

3. There was a tragic cyclist fatality in Hamilton city on 27 June 2022 at the intersection of Tristram and London Streets. This intersection has been identified for some time as requiring improvements to improve cyclist safety.
4. Mayor Southgate initially commented to media that the Council was awaiting funding approval from Waka Kotahi to carry out safety improvements at this intersection. This was later corrected, as Waka Kotahi provided information and evidence that funding had been approved and this was known by HCC. Construction of the cycling improvements is programmed to occur in April-June 2023.

Cycling construction

5. Mayor Southgate's letter of 20 May 2022 and the attached construction ready report highlight a number of walking and cycling projects HCC is seeking funding for.
6. Providing more travel options and responding to climate change through targeted public transport improvements, new passenger rail services and better access to walking and cycling in Hamilton is a focus for Waka Kotahi, HCC and Waikato Regional Council (WRC). This is also reflected in the priorities and work of the Future Proof Urban Growth Partnership.
7. Waka Kotahi, via the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF), is already investing in a number of safe walking and cycling network projects and improving public transport links and priority. The current NLTF funded walking and cycling projects currently being delivered by HCC are:

Project	Description	Funding committed	Status
Hamilton Biking and Micro-mobility	City-wide long-term strategy to identify how to improve biking and	\$580,000	Business case completed.

Project	Description	Funding committed	Status
Programme Business case	micro-mobility mode share in Hamilton. Focused on low cost, fast to implement, rapidly roll out walking and cycling connections across Hamilton.		Going to the Waka Kotahi Board in September 2022 for endorsement and seeking funding for Pre-Implementation phase.
Eastern Pathway School Link and Connections	The School Link and Connections project looks to improve walking, cycling and public transport. The aim is to provide the people of eastern Hamilton with easier, safer and more reliable transport options while connecting local communities and the eastern suburbs with the city centre.	Business case: \$600,000 Pre-Implementation: \$2.8m	Pre-Implantation Phase.
Eastern Pathway CBD to University Link	The City Centre to University Link Corridor facilitates vital east-west transport movements between the Hamilton CBD and the University of Waikato. The corridor acts as a gateway from Hamilton East into the CBD, and plays a key role in accessing the university, schools, churches, restaurants, shops and other businesses located along the corridor.	Business case: \$400,000	Business case phase.
Low-Cost Low Risk Walking and Cycling programme	Range of projects under \$2m	\$10.3m	Funding approved and projects being delivered over the 2021 – 2024 National Land Transport Programme period.
Borman Road East/Horsham Downs	The extension of Borman Road arterial east through to Horsham Downs Road with intersection construction includes the addition of shared paths to existing sections of Horsham Downs and Borman Roads.	s 9(2)(j)	Tender for construction.

8. Additionally, Waka Kotahi has recently completed the \$4.5m underpass of State Highway 21 at Tamahere. This provides a safe crossing for the Cambridge to Hamilton shared walking and cycling path.

Potential CERF or Crown investment in walking and cycling in Hamilton

9. Waka Kotahi is supportive of the projects put forward by HCC's Mayor in her letter and the Construction Ready Report. The majority of these projects were identified through the Biking & Micro-mobility Business Case (BMM Business Case), which Waka Kotahi has been closely involved in the development of.
10. The BMM Business Case is a significant step forward by providing a long-term investment plan for the next 10 years. It adopts a "transitional" approach to support faster delivery and reduced infrastructure costs, consistent with the proposed direction to be set in the National Cycling Plan and being prioritised for investment from the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF).
11. Waka Kotahi is already discussing with HCC the opportunity for some of the BMM projects to be put forward for CERF funding.
12. HCC has a strong track record of delivering their transportation programme. However, HCC and the wider local government sector may be experiencing the inability to deliver some projects due to the industry being at or near capacity. For any projects that HCC put forward for CERF funding, Waka Kotahi would expect HCC to provide strong evidence of how it would achieve delivery within the expected two-year window.

Next steps

13. HCC has shown a commitment to achieving mode shift through supporting enhanced public transport and walking and cycling improvements. We consider projects identified through the BMM Business Case may be suitable for CERF funding where the Council can demonstrate there is internal and industry capacity to deliver.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.



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David Speirs

Director Regional Relationships (Waikato/Bay of Plenty)

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2022