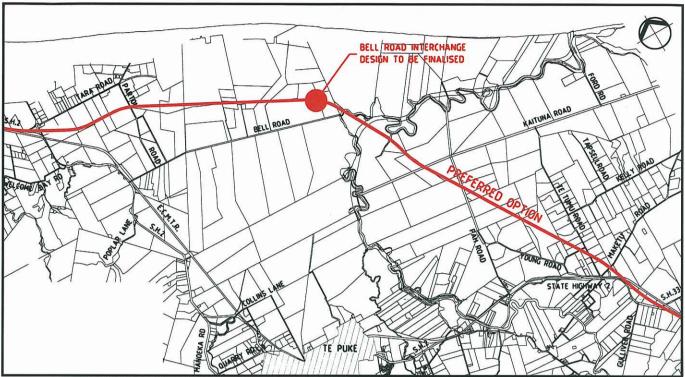




Community Newsletter No. 7



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STATE HIGHWAY 2 EASTERN ARTERIAL ROADING PROJECT

Since our last newsletter in June, our consultant, Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd (BCHF), has been carrying out consultation with directly affected landowners and preparing the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) for the Designation.

It was hoped that the Designation Requirement Notice would have been lodged with the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils prior to Christmas. However, two developments have resulted in a delay. Tauranga District Council has decided to proceed with plans to designate land for another interchange in the location of Bell Road (see above plan). The purpose of this is to give access to the future urban growth area at Papamoa East. The design for this interchange, the necessary consultation and further AEE analysis will be carried out by BCHF. The Designation Requirement Notice will be lodged at the same time as the Designation for the Eastern Arterial.

In addition, during archaeological investigations for the AEE, the location of a Pa site underneath the proposed alignment, near the Kaituna River, has been confirmed. Due to the Pa site's importance, the route has been realigned to avoid it. The realignment is minor, affecting the route from the end of Bell Road to the Kaituna Reserve.

We are very appreciative of the community's willingness to respond to this project over the past months and your agreement to let our consultant's teams onto your properties. Despite the small delays described above the project is proceeding smoothly and is well on the way to being lodged, around April next year.

Yours faithfully

Colin Knaggs
Transit New Zealand
December 1998

Paula Thompson
Tauranga District Council
December 1998

BELL ROAD INTERCHANGE

The Tauranga District Council's Strategic Plan, "Strategic Directions", envisages a substantial area of urban development north of the proposed Eastern Arterial, between the alignment and the coast, in the long term. In order to better serve this area, Tauranga District Council has decided to designate land for an interchange in the vicinity of Bell Road.

Proceeding with the designation of the land for this interchange at the same time as the designation for the Eastern Arterial gives future certainty, both for landowners and for the District Council, in the future planning of the area.

It is not intended to define the linkages between the interchange and Bell Road or any roads in Papamoa at this stage as these will be subject to future structure planning and subdivision arrangements. The interchange will be a typical diamond interchange involving overbridges.

PA SITE

Whilst carrying out investigations for the Eastern Arterial a Pa site was confirmed which, although previously recorded in the general area, has not in the past been accurately located. The investigations to date indicate that the Pa site was affected by the proposed alignment.

The NZ Historic Places Act requires consent to be given prior to any modification, disturbance or destruction of archaeological sites. Because of the significance of the Pa, as advised through consultation with Waitaha representatives, it was agreed that the route should be realigned to avoid any adverse effects to the Pa. The alignment has been moved slightly further north at the end of Bell Road.

To retain an alignment that meets Transit's safety standards for highways the alignment to the east, between the Kaituna River and the Kaituna Reserve, has been moved slightly southwest as shown on the plan overleaf.

THE NEXT STAGE

The consultants are currently completing the AEE on the proposed alignment with the above outlined modifications. Further consultation will be carried out with landowners directly affected by the changes.

Following completion of the additional work resulting from the above changes, BCHF will be lodging the Notice of Requirement on behalf of Transit around April 1999. The Designation will then be notified and you will get the chance to make submissions. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the consultant at the telephone numbers and addresses given below.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The consultant, Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd, has an office in Tauranga in Harrington House. You can meet, by prior appointment, the staff listed below or you can telephone them at any time. The contacts are:

Amanda Rowe, Christine Ralph and Don Young
Phone: 07 578 0896 Postal Address: PO Box 903, Tauranga
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The Transit New Zealand Project Manager is: Colin Crampton. He can be contacted on telephone number: 07 838 8220