



**Christchurch Regional Office  
Media Release**

**30 June 2005**

**\$780.5 million forecast for Canterbury state highways  
over the next decade**

Transit New Zealand today announced its 10-year State Highway Forecast for 2005/06 to 2014/15. The forecast includes a planned spend of \$780.5 million on improvements and maintenance in Canterbury during the next decade.

Transit regional manager Colin Knaggs said the forecast outlined nine large projects, 15 small and medium-sized projects and 35 other possible projects to be considered during the next 10 years.

A project to implement travel demand management measures on Christchurch state highways is planned for a construction start in 2006/07. Design of the SH73 Christchurch Southern Motorway Extension is programmed to start in 2005/06, with construction forecast to begin in 2009/10, one year earlier than was indicated in Transit's 2004/05 10-year plan released last June.

Other large projects forecast for a construction start within the 10-year period are the Sawyers Arms to Memorial Avenue, Yaldhurst Road to Waterloo Road and Memorial Avenue to Yaldhurst Road four-laning projects and the Christchurch Northern Arterial Rural project on SH1. Safety improvements are planned between Mingha Bluff and Rough Creek on SH73 and at Okarahia North on SH1.

"In 2005/06 we will also continue with the \$12.9 million Main North Road Four-laning Stage 2 project.

"In addition to the large projects in the forecast there are a number of small and medium-sized projects planned for construction in the next three years. Increasing the number of passing lanes, especially on SH1, within Canterbury has been included in the forecast, subject to progress on other projects and regional distribution funding.

"Safety continues to be our major focus and plans are underway to remove difficult sections of state highway and roadside hazards. Improvements on SH7 between Handyside and Waterfall and at Haypaddock Hill, and on SH1 at Saltwater Creek and Okiwi Bay, have been developed and are ready for construction. Two additional stock effluent facilities are currently under development to add to the three facilities already in operation in Canterbury," continues Mr Knaggs.

"Improvements for pedestrians and cyclists are incorporated into all urban intersection upgrades when they are undertaken. Opportunities to improve facilities further are currently being assessed with five projects included in the forecast," continues Mr Knaggs.

Over and above general highway maintenance Transit proposes to install further electronic

variable message signposting, introduce thermal mapping of the inland network to predict where icing will occur and install more weather stations to improve emergency responses.

Transit also proposes to continue risk analysis of rock falls and river erosion, implement retrofitting works on a number of bridges to reduce their vulnerability in the event of a severe earthquake and continue to maintain and improve the coastal defences of SH1, north and south of Kaikoura. Transit will also work with the Department of Conservation to ensure that maintenance within the national parks represents world best practice.

Transit's current 10-year forecast is divided into a firm one-year programme for 2005/06, which Transit is fully committed to delivering. The first three years will be known as the State Highway Plan and contains the best estimates of time and cost for the listed projects and activities. For the rest of the decade the forecast is less certain due to the potential for issues in the planning stages to affect timing and costs.

The Forecast – with \$968 million earmarked nationally for 2005/06 – was prepared before the Government's 23 June announcement of extra funding for land transport, and is based on a funding allocation of \$950 million for 2005/06, \$162 million more than the equivalent figure for 2004/05. The State Highway Forecast for the 10-year period totals in excess of \$11 billion. It does not include additional funding for land transport announced on 23 June.

“The additional \$500 million funding for land transport announced by the Government last week is excellent news and we hope to receive part of this funding for additional activity in Canterbury,” says Mr Knaggs.

This State Highway Forecast is the first prepared under the full provision of the Land Transport Management Act and Transit consulted more widely than in the past on its draft plan. Over 900 written submissions were received and the views of 100 organisations or individuals were heard at hearings in 17 locations nationwide.

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