



**Transit Regional Office  
Auckland**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Efficiency and safety the focus of Transit 10-year Forecast for Northland**

With the predicted growth in Northland's forestry traffic, ongoing tourist traffic and increasing traffic between Auckland and Whangarei, improved route efficiency and safety are the major focus of Transit New Zealand's 10-year State Highway forecast.

Transit regional manager, Richard Hancy, says intensified land use, particularly around Kerikeri and west of Whangarei, along with growing traffic volumes, are placing increased demands on the region's state highways. A widely acclaimed safety measure was installed in the form of a roundabout at the intersection of SH10 and Kerikeri Road to meet the growing traffic generated by growth in the area.

"We need more of these safety projects," says Mr Hancy, "to improve the alignment of highways and provide more passing lanes, especially on SH1 between the intersection with SH10 at Pararaka and Ross Road north of Wellsford," says Mr Hancy.

He says the additional \$500 million funding for land transport over three years announced by the government last week, has not yet been factored into this 10-year forecast. "We propose releasing in August an amended forecast incorporating the share of \$500 million allocated to state highways."

Improvements are also required on logging routes to accommodate the predicted increases in logging traffic from Northland forests to Marsden Point Port. These include passing lanes, seal widening and upgrading of intersections where logging trucks enter the state highway network.

"Because of the high use of the Northland state highways by large trucks, buses and cars and the growing number of new residents and tourists in the region, safety is a vital concern underlined by the projects and priorities in the 10-year forecast," says Mr Hancy.

Major features of the 10-year forecast are:

- completion of the sealing of the remaining section of SH1 from Waitiki Landing to Cape Reinga
- stage 2 of the Kamo Bypass
- Matakohe realignment
- Katetoke-Oakleigh realignment, which is due for completion in August
- safety improvements on SH10 through Kaingaroa Village, with construction starting 2005/06

- upgrade intersection of SH1 with One Tree Point Road to and from Marsden Point Port
- passing lanes on SH1 between Pararaka and Kaiwaka, one more passing lane on SH14 and a passing bay and extensions to three existing passing lanes on SH1
- ongoing small rural realignments, rural intersection upgrades, seal widening and guardrails in the next three years
- cycling and walking facilities at various locations including Whangarei and Dargaville
- Construction of a stock effluent disposal facility in the Whangarei District.

Maintenance, which accounts for 40 per cent of Transit's budget in any one year, will focus in 2005/06 on resurfacing 67 km of highway, reconstructing 14 km of highway with 9.4 km of seal widening and ongoing slip management. Transit will also continue trialling surface material to improve skid resistance and provide ongoing minor safety improvements, including lighting, signage, small rural realignments, intersection upgrades and guardrails.

### **Ends**

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