

# WAIKATO STATE HIGHWAY FORECAST

## UPDATE at August 2005

The additional funding in this Update to Transit's 10-year State Highway Forecast has the following impact in the Waikato region:

- › Faster progress on the Waikato Expressway
  - » SH1 Te Rapa Bypass advanced
  - » SH1 Ngaruawahia Bypass development advanced
- › SH1 Piarere to Oak Tree Bend Realignment now to start in 2006/07.

Advancing the Waikato Expressway has been given the second highest priority nationally by Transit for its \$340 million share of the additional \$500 million land transport funds recently announced by the Government. Over the following two years, a further \$50 million is to be allocated for state highways.

The \$87 million Te Rapa project has advanced from being a forecast project with no confirmed date to having its full design confirmed for 2007/08 and 2008/09 and a construction start of 2009/10. This advancement is expected to require borrowing and tolling as part of the funding package.

The full design of the Ngaruawahia Bypass has been brought forward two years and confirmed for the 2006/07 and 2007/08 years.

Additional construction funding for these and other projects may result from the review recently commissioned by the Minister of Transport.

It is planned to spend an additional \$35.5 million over the four years in the Waikato on property purchase to avoid delays at construction time.

The realignment of Piarere to Oak Tree Bend on SH1 to eliminate a safety blackspot will be accelerated by six years to begin construction in 2006/07. It will be completed in 2008/09.

Three smaller projects in the Waikato, which were outside the three-year plan for smaller and medium-sized projects, will now all have their construction start in the current year. They are the SH4 Tikitiki Road North Realignment, and two sets of passing lanes. These on SH2 are: the Heavens Double passing lanes, and an extension of the Campbell Road southbound passing lane.

This is part of the extra \$10 million Transit has allocated to small and medium projects nationwide in 2005/06. Nationally, an extra \$5 million a year for the following three years is set aside for similar projects, particularly those with a strong safety focus. Waikato projects in the following years will be identified as Transit's overall programme progresses.

The total value of this additional work or work to be completed earlier in the Waikato region is \$50 million.