



**Napier Regional Office
Media Release**

**28 June 2006
Embargoed until 6pm**

Gisborne reaps road safety benefit from State Highway Forecast

Transit New Zealand today reconfirmed road safety improvements for the Gisborne region including seal-widening on SH35 to the south of Tologa Bay as part of its 10-year State Highway Forecast 2006/07 released today.

The seal-widening programme, which will be completed in stages, is scheduled for investigation and design within five years.

Another safety initiative is the inclusion of two slow vehicle bays to remedy restricted passing opportunities on SH35 north of Gisborne, to be undertaken within three years.

State highway maintenance makes up a large portion of expenditure in this year's forecast for Gisborne resulting in 72 kilometres, or 22 per cent, of the regional state highway network receiving remedial treatment.

Maintenance work includes completion of over \$2.8 million of emergency works to repair damage caused by recurring storms since November 2005.

Management of land subsidence continues, with a further 19 sites identified for treatment using soil stabilisation at a cost of \$1.1 million. Soil stabilisation is improved by drilling columns of cement-grouted soil into unstable sites. Planting is also part of the stabilisation programme.

The maintenance programme also includes new advisory signs warning of tight curves. Road surface improvement continues with a pavement recycling programme covering 15 kilometres. Resealing will cover 57 kilometres of the Gisborne network.

"The combination of road resurfacing and pavement recycling will significantly improve the rough and bumpy sections of road. These are a feature of the Gisborne state highway network because of land subsidence which creates an uneven road surface," regional manager Hilton Netteville says.

Information with a national focus is included in a separate media statement.

Transit's 10-year State Highway Forecast 2006/07 and a media kit will be available at 6pm today on our website at www.transit.govt.nz

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