



**Auckland Regional Office
Media Release**

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Benefits for tourism, safety and the economy in Transit's 10-year Forecast for Northland

Safety, tourism and the demands of increased land development are the key focus for Northland in Transit New Zealand's 10-year State Highway Forecast released today.

The forecast details a range of capital investment and maintenance projects for developing the region's major roads and creating secure and efficient transport corridors, especially between Whangarei and Auckland.

Sealing the final 20-kilometres of State Highway One (SH1) from Waitiki Landing to Cape Reinga will mark the end of the only unsealed section of SH1 in the country. Sealing will improve safety and access to this significant tourist destination for international and domestic visitors alike.

Transit regional manager (acting) Peter Spies, says safety is an important Northland issue addressed in the forecast. Passing lanes between Auckland and Kaitaia on SH1 and on SH14 will be improved including at Kaiwaka, Brynderwyns North Down Hill, Hukerenui, Waiomio and Waitutu North amongst others. The separation or safe interaction between heavy freight and general traffic and crashes on bends are also key safety issues.

Local motorists will benefit when congestion through the Whangarei urban area will be eased by Stage 2 of the Kamo Bypass.

One Tree Point intersection upgrade is crucial to improving access to the new Marsden Point Port, the success of which is closely linked to the economic wellbeing of the area. It is anticipated that over the next few years forestry harvesting is expected to increase to four million tonnes per year with much of it expected to be exported through Marsden Point Port.

Transit will work closely with regional and district councils to ensure that all substantial upgrading in the next 10 to 20 years is properly considered and planned in order to relieve congestion and support regional growth strategies.

Planning activities such as Northland's Regional Land Transport Strategy, Long – Term Council Community Plans and Transit's State Highway Forecast all help in this

process, says Mr Spies.

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

Ends

*For further information contact:
Peter Spies Transit Regional Manager (acting)
Tel 09 368 2000 or 027 294 2662*