



**Dunedin Regional Office
Media Release**

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Embargoed until 6pm**

Transit Forecast delivers Caversham Bypass 4-laning for Dunedin

The highest priority for the Otago region in Transit New Zealand's 10-year State Highway Forecast 2006/07 released today is the Caversham Bypass 4-laning project.

Investigation for the project is planned for 2006/07 with design and construction proposed within five years.

"We want to help prevent multi-vehicle collisions and crashes at intersections on this section of highway which has amongst the highest traffic volumes in a 100km/h undivided, two-lane road in the South Island," regional manager Mike O'Cain says.

"This project improves the safety and efficiency of the major highway connecting Dunedin with the south, but will only be progressed with a contribution from the regionally distributed funding allocation for Otago," he says.

Also in the 2006/07 Forecast is the investigation for the East Tareri Bypass SH1 near Mosgiel planned to start in 2006/07. The intent is to update the scope of the project and to reconfirm the designation.

This project will improve the traffic flow between Dunedin and the south, particularly the airport.

The third largest project proposed for the region is a new bridge at Kawarau Falls SH6 south of Queenstown, with investigation proposed within the next five years following on from the Waikaitipu Transportation Study.

"This will help improve safety and efficiency in an area which is experiencing rapid population growth," Mr O'Cain says.

Further projects are likely to be identified for the Queenstown area from the Waikaitipu Transportation study, currently underway with Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Safety improvements identified for the region in the next three years include intersection improvements on Anderson Rd SH84 in Wanaka, safety improvements between Orwell and Coquet St in Oamaru and at Lookout Point, Dunedin.

Realignments will be carried out on Tunnel Hill, south of Raes Junction SH8, Jefferis Rd south of Palmerston SH1 and the Gentle Annie West realignment, west of Cromwell on SH6.

Bridge improvements are planned at Roaring Meg on SH6 west of Cromwell.

Regular maintenance continues on SH6 to remove rock features that might result in rock falls at Nevis Bluff.

One-way pair pedestrian safety improvements on state highway 1 may also proceed if regional funding is allocated to these projects.

Work will continue on the SH1 Tumai-Waikouaiti realignment.

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 please contact:

Mike O'Cain, regional manager

Ph 03 477 8527 or 021 435 954

Or communications advisor Anthony Frith 04 496 5479

And Marie Watson 04 496 6639

www.transit.govt.nz