



**Dunedin Regional Office
Media Release**

**28 June 2006
Embargoed until 6pm**

Southland gains repairs to Homer Tunnel and new Edendale realignment

Improvements to the Homer Tunnel on SH94, and a realignment at Edendale SH1, are the key focus for Southland in Transit New Zealand's 10-year State Highway Forecast 2006/07 released today.

Transit is continuing investigations into replacing the eastern portal to the Homer Tunnel damaged in 1996 which needs to be replaced and possibly extended. The tunnel is of significant importance for the region, providing the only road access to the key tourist destination of Milford Sound.

Design and construction of improvements to the Homer Tunnel are proposed within five years.

The Edendale Realignment, scheduled within the next six to ten years, will improve the efficiency of this section of SH1. The project will bypass the township of Edendale, taking through traffic away from the town.

Transit has also identified a number of other improvements including realignments, bridge widening and intersection improvements for progress in the next five years.

A pullover with a kiosk is planned for SH94 near Te Anau to provide winter road condition information, especially advice on avalanche activity.

Safety projects for the region include realignments at River Road SH93, Longbush Curve SH1, Gill Road SH96, East Road Curve SH1.

Maintenance makes up the majority of forecast expenditure in the Southland region.

Works include 74km of resurfacing, including the application of 7km of more durable, noise reducing asphalt. There will be 10km of road reconstruction.

Transit's avalanche hazard management system, recognised as world-class, will continue to use the latest techniques to ensure access to Milford Sound and minimise risks to road users.

A new stock effluent disposal facility is planned for SH1 between Gore and Matura and another facility for SH6 near Lumsden is being investigated. These will form

part of a nationwide programme to provide a safe and convenient network of sites.

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:

Regional manager Mike O'Cain, Ph 03 477 8527 or 021 435 954

Or communications advisors Anthony Frith ph 04 496 5479

Or Marie Watson ph 04 496 6639

www.transit.govt.nz