



**Wellington Regional Office
Media Release**

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State Highway Forecast gives priority to Transmission Gully Motorway

Starting the preliminary investigation and design for the Transmission Gully Motorway is a top priority for the Wellington region in Transit New Zealand's 10-year State Highway Forecast released today.

It has been incorporated into the 2006/2007 Forecast following the budget announcement of \$80M towards the investigation and development of a preliminary design and cost estimate for Transmission Gully Motorway.

This phase will include: detailed geotechnical investigations, surveying, refinement of environmental effects, refining of costs and obtaining consents.

Transit regional manager Graham Taylor said this preliminary work will help establish a more defined cost for the project and help secure resource consents to enable a construction start in the Forecast's second five year period.

"Initial work will begin immediately, with emphasis on defining the scope of the project, but full development depends on a funding plan being finalised by the region," he said.

Another large project included in the 2006/07 forecast is the Dowse to Petone upgrade on SH2 which includes an overbridge at the Korokoro intersection, an interchange at the Dowse Drive intersection, connecting Dowse Drive and the Hutt Road with a roundabout raised over the highway, and connections to the state highway.

"Planning is now well advanced on this project to allow a proposed construction start in 2006/07," said Mr Taylor.

Investigation of options to upgrade the Melling intersection is also scheduled within the next five years.

Completion of design of the SH2 Rimutaka Corner Easing project, which will straighten tight curves at "Muldoon's Corner", about 500m south of the Rimutaka Summit, is scheduled in 2006/2007, with construction proposed in the second five-year period.

The Kapiti-Western Link Road is a joint project with Kapiti Coast District Council, to construct a major arterial parallel to SH1 between Peka Peka Road, north of Waikanae and Poplar Ave at Raumati. It will relieve congestion on both the state highway and local roads and provide a second crossing of the Waikanae River. Design of the first stage, which connects Waikanae and Paraparaumu, will commence in 2006/2007, with construction planned within five years. Investigation of the second stage, the northern portion extending from Waikanae to Pekapeka, and investigation and design of the third stage, the southern portion extending back to SH1 at Raumati, are included in the first five years of the programme. Construction will follow in the second five years. The need for grade separation for roads connecting to SH1 will be investigated as part of the design.

Other new projects included in the 2006/07 Forecast are:

- SH1 Basin Reserve improvements which are subject to confirmation by the Ngauranga to Airport Transport Study.
- a new grade separation project is proposed for SH2/58 at Manor Park.
- possible weigh station sites have been identified at Plimmerton and further north on the Kapiti Coast. The SH1 Waikanae weigh station project is forecast to be completed within the next five years.
- SH1 Kapiti strategic study, north of MacKays Crossing, is scheduled for a start in 2006/2007. It will complement the work of the Kapiti Western Link Road and provide certainty for future development in the Kapiti district.

Major projects or strategic studies already underway to ease congestion and address safety issues are:

- construction of the SH1 MacKay's Crossing Overbridge due for completion at the end of 2006.
- the northern route of the \$39.9 million SH1 Inner City Bypass project will be in operation in December 2006 . Project completion is scheduled for mid-2007.
- preparatory works have also started on the extension of the wire rope median barrier along SH1 Centennial Highway, between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay.
- the \$4.27 million replacement of the Waiohine Bridge, on SH2 between Greytown and Carterton, is scheduled for completion in January 2007.
- SH1/2 Ngauranga to Airport study is a joint study with Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council. The first stage of consultation finished in May 2006 with 46 submissions received. A report on these findings is due out in June/July.

Inclusion of the investigation of the Transmission Gully Motorway project has led to the removal of the Whitford Brown Interchange project from the first five years of the 2006/07 forecast. This is in line with focusing on the Transmission Gully route and

only undertaking essential safety works on the existing state highway.

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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