



KEY TRANSPORT ISSUES

In meeting the objectives of the NZTS and LTMA the key regional transport issues for the Southland region include:

- › Road safety
- › Forestry traffic
- › Dairying traffic: the increase in the number of dairy farms is seeing increasing heavy vehicle movements, particularly around the processing plant at Edendale
- › Tourist traffic: particularly increases on the southern scenic route, to Fiordland National Park and between Queenstown and Milford Sound (SH94)
- › Lack of passing opportunities, particularly on SH1 between Edendale and Invercargill.

How we plan to address these key issues

Most state highways in Southland carry relatively low traffic volumes and few improvements are currently required apart from minor safety improvements, improvements to Homer Tunnel on SH94, and a realignment of SH1 at Edendale. Southland's economic growth and conversion of pasture farming activity to dairying is actively monitored to ensure that the current high levels of service on Southland highways are maintained.

While the emphasis for Transit in Southland is on maintaining the existing state highway network, there are a number of activities prioritised in the State Highway Forecast to improve road safety as well as route security and efficiency.

A key priority is managing the connections between state highways and local roads, as well as access to state highways from adjacent land, to support the medium to long distance travel function of state highways.

There is a continuing need for active management of SH94 between Te Anau and Milford Sound to provide an appropriate level of avalanche protection and traffic management. Transit is continuing investigations into replacing the eastern portal to the Homer Tunnel that was damaged some years ago. This tunnel provides the only road access to the key tourist destination of Milford Sound.

In addition, the Edendale Realignment is proposed to improve the safety of that section of SH1 through Edendale.

Road Safety – Secure and Efficient Transport Corridors

Transit has identified a number of activities to improve the safety and efficiency of sections of state highway in Southland, including realignments, bridge widening and intersection improvements, for progress in the next five years. Further work on the management or removal of roadside hazards will continue.

Stock Effluent Disposal Facilities

As part of a national programme to provide a safe and convenient network of stock effluent disposal facilities Transit is proposing a new stock effluent disposal facility on SH1, between Gore and Matakura.

Strategic Studies

We are proposing to undertake a number of strategic studies for the Southland region, to improve our long term planning and assist good decision-making. These include SH94/95 The Key to Milford (Te Anau), Invercargill to Winton and Lorneville to Wallacetown.

Maintenance and Operations

Maintenance activities make up the majority of the forecast expenditure in the Southland region.

In addition to preserving the highway network and undertaking maintenance and improvements to meet future levels of service, we propose to:

- › Undertake 74km of resurfacing, including 1.5km of thin asphaltic surfacing, which, although more expensive, is more durable and quieter
- › Undertake 13km of road pavement rehabilitation
- › Ensure the latest hazard management systems are installed at Homer Tunnel on SH94. The current avalanche hazard management system is recognised as being world-class. We intend to ensure that the programme remains adequately funded and the latest techniques are used to maximise access to Milford Sound and minimise risks to road users
- › Maintain high skid resistance surfacing to help prevent wet road crashes
- › Develop a strategy, including in-depth crash analysis, in an effort to meet the Government's 2010 safety targets
- › Continue with improvements in traffic management during incidents on the network.