



KEY TRANSPORT ISSUES

In meeting the objectives of the NZTS and LTMA, the key regional transport issues for the Manawatu/Wanganui region include:

- › Road safety
- › Safety and capacity issues south of Levin
- › Industrial and commercial development around Palmerston North Airport, and the proposed closure of Milson Line due to airport extensions
- › Residential development to the east of Palmerston North across the Manawatu River
- › Route security and efficiency to the east, through the Manawatu Gorge
- › Additional river crossings to provide access from Palmerston North
- › The need to provide for a heavy commercial vehicle route
- › Assist in the maintenance of a lahar warning system on Mt Ruapehu.

How we plan to address these key issues

While there is a significant emphasis for Transit in the Manawatu/Wanganui region on maintaining the existing state highway network, there are a number of prioritised activities to improve road safety as well as route security and efficiency in the region. A further 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 key arterial roads.

Safety improvements are proposed for SH1: the Ohingaiti–Makohine Realignment south of Taihape is presently under construction to be followed later by the Papatawa Realignment near Dannevirke on SH2.

Road Safety – Secure and Efficient Transport Corridors

Transit has identified a number of small and medium-sized activities to improve the safety and efficiency of sections of the state highway, to progress in the next three years. Activities include intersection

improvements, realignments and seal widening. Implementation of works identified from previous crash reduction studies have been undertaken in the Manawatu/Rangitikei district and traffic signals have been installed on the Grey Street/Princess Street intersection (Palmerston North). Improvements are being developed for Rangitikei Street at Tremaine Avenue and J F Kennedy Drive to enhance capacity and safety. Further work on the management or removal of roadside hazards will continue.

Passing Opportunities

Limited passing opportunities in some parts of the region's road network lead to driver frustration and accidents. In Manawatu/Wanganui a number of projects have been identified to provide passing opportunities for progression in the next three years, consisting of three passing lanes or passing lane extensions on SH1, two passing lane extensions on SH2 and six passing lanes on SH3.

Stock Effluent Disposal Facilities

As part of a national programme to provide a safe and convenient network of stock effluent disposal facilities, Transit proposes the construction of facilities on SH2 near Woodville, on SH4 near National Park and on SH1 near Taihape.

Walking and Cycling

The Bulls Bridge Cycleway Improvement will be progressed during the next three years.

Strategic Studies

We are proposing to undertake a number of strategic studies for the Manawatu/Wanganui region, including studies of Desert Road Summit to Levin and south of Levin, to improve our long-term planning and assist good decision-making. Project Takitini at Ohakea – listed as a new strategic study in the draft forecast – will mitigate the effects of the centralisation of the air base to Ohakea.

Maintenance and Operations

Maintenance and operations activities make up a large proportion of the forecast expenditure in the Manawatu/Wanganui region. In addition to preserving the highway network and undertaking maintenance and improvements to meet future levels of service, we propose to:

- › Resurface 60km of highway
- › Carry out 5km of road pavement reconstruction
- › Continue to provide high-quality skid-resistant road surfaces
- › Widen the carriageway to target seal widths as part of maintenance activities, when appropriate and affordable
- › Enhance Transit's management of slips and unstable areas to reduce road user risks and maintain route security.