



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, as 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 safety improvements to Homer Tunnel on SH94, and a realignment of SH1 at Edendale. Southland's economic growth and conversion of pasture farming 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 investigating safety improvements for the Homer Tunnel. 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 facility on SH1, between Gore and Mataura and SH6 at Lumsden.

Strategic Studies

We are proposing to progress four 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), SH1 Invercargill to Bluff and SH94 Homer Tunnel Operations Study.

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 72km of resurfacing, including 2.5km of thin asphaltic surfacing, which, although more expensive, is more durable and quieter
- › Undertake 15km of road pavement rehabilitation
- › Ensure the latest hazard management systems are installed at Homer Tunnel on SH94. The current avalanche hazard management system is recognized 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
- › Continue with on-going safety strategies, to achieve the Government's 2010 safety targets.
- › Install electronic variable message signs on SH94 Milford Road to give motorists up-to-date information on road conditions.