



MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Roads of National Significance: 10 year programme
Date	27 February 2012
OCU number	BRI-0219
Priority (Immediate, high or routine)	Immediate

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

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Action taken by Office of Minister of Transport

- Noted
- Approved
- Seen by Minister
- Referred to
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Overtaken by events

27 February 2012

Minister of Transport

Roads of National Significance: 10 year programme

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Roads of National Significance programme. The three attachments show:
 - the timing of each project and the investment required
 - a map of each project
 - a discussion of the regional contexts.

Strategic context

2. The Roads of National Significance programme reflects the Government's expectation that land transport funding will be directed into high quality projects and activities that improve productivity and economic growth, particularly in the export sector.
3. The state highway network is key to the efficient movement of people and freight. It accounts for 12 percent of the total road network but accommodates 50 percent of the vehicle kilometres driven each year and around 66 percent of the vehicle kilometres driven by heavy vehicles.
4. The seven initial roads of national significance represent New Zealand's most essential state highway routes where significant development is required to reduce congestion, improve safety and support economic growth. Listing the roads as nationally significant in the current and upcoming Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding ensures they are prioritised in the NZ Transport Agency's three-yearly National Land Transport Programme.
5. The 2009 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding allocated \$10.7 billion over 10 years for investment in the state highway network. The NZ Transport Agency's priority is to advance the roads of national significance (and the local roads critical to supporting them) alongside other key freight and tourist routes and road safety projects.
6. The 2012 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding noted the continued progression of the roads of national significance as critical to the Government's economic growth and productivity priority and a significant part of its National Infrastructure Plan.

The seven roads of national significance

7. The seven initial roads of national significance are centred on New Zealand's five largest population centres which have large traffic volumes and important connections to areas of economic activity and ports.

Puhoi to Wellsford

8. High traffic volumes on the Northern Motorway (State Highway 1) result in numerous bottlenecks, particularly around Puhoi. The Puhoi to Wellsford projects will cater for the expected future growth and development north of Auckland, ease peak and seasonal congestion, and address the significant safety problems.
9. In the longer term, the development of the route will make areas in Northland more attractive for economic and community growth.
10. The project is at an early stage of development.

Completing the Western Ring Route

11. The Auckland Western Ring Route includes State Highways 16, 18 and 20. A comprehensive programme of work has been undertaken over the last five years with the current focus on completing the route in Mt Roskill and Waterview, and adding more lanes to State Highway 16.
12. The Western Ring Route will improve business and freight links between industrial and transport hubs in Manukau, central Auckland, Waitakere and the North Shore.
13. The Waterview Connection is under construction.

Victoria Park Tunnel

14. Removing the Victoria Park bottleneck is a final stage of the Central Motorway Interchange project. Capacity improvements around Victoria Park will realise the full benefits of the Grafton Gully project and Central Motorway project, reducing travel time for more than 20,000 freight movements per day.
15. This project is substantially complete and open to traffic.

Waikato Expressway

16. The Waikato Expressway will improve safety and reduce travel times. This section of State Highway 1 is the main southern road access to Auckland and links the 'golden triangle' of population and economic growth (Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty).
17. There are 11 sections to this project. Three sections are open, three are under construction (Rangiriri, Te Rapa, and Ngaruawahia), and five are in development (Huntly, Hamilton, Longswamp, Cambridge, and Tamahere).
18. In 2008, the Government undertook to complete the Waikato Expressway within 10 years.

Tauranga Eastern Corridor

19. The Tauranga Eastern Corridor is crucial to supporting growth in the Bay of Plenty by providing access for freight from across the region to the Port of Tauranga.
20. The project is under construction.

Wellington Northern Corridor

21. Improved access for commuters and freight between Wellington Airport and Levin contribute to economic growth in the lower North Island. This route is crucial for the efficient north-south movement of freight and people. Every year 6-7 million tonnes of long distance freight enters and leaves Wellington by road and rail, of which 1-2 million tonnes crosses Cook Strait.
22. The nine sections of this project are in early stages of development. Some early works have been completed on Ngauranga to Aotea Quay.

Christchurch motorways projects

23. These projects will improve the city's southern and northern approaches, and provide a western bypass to New Zealand's second biggest metropolitan area.
24. The significant congestion in the northern Christchurch key corridors has been exacerbated by post-earthquake traffic patterns. Freight transport performance is declining and public transport performance is constrained by the existing congested route.
25. There are three main sections to this project. Stage 1 of the Southern Motorway section is under construction and programmed for completion in early 2013. Parts of the Western Motorway are under construction and design work is nearing completion on the remaining parts. The Northern Motorway is currently in development.
26. The earthquakes have impacted the timing and priority of these projects.

Benefits of the roads of national significance

27. At a portfolio level, the overall roads of national significance programme has a net present value of over \$4.5 billion and a benefit cost ratio of approximately 1.8 (using The Treasury's prescribed discount rate of 8 percent). Based on a more appropriate discount rate of 4 percent the benefit cost ratio would increase to approximately 2.7.
28. An economic review undertaken in July 2010 suggested the wider economic benefits would be the order of a further 80 percent (\$1.4 billion per annum in 2020).
29. In the next six months the NZ Transport Agency will redo our economic analysis of the roads of national significance programme to reflect our better understanding of costs and benefits.

Future roads of national significance

30. The 2012 Government Policy Statement has identified four future roads of national significance:
- Hamilton to Tauranga
 - Cambridge to Taupo
 - Napier to Hastings
 - State Highway 1 north and south of Christchurch
31. Initial strategic assessments of these routes have been identified for study within the 2012 GPS three year period. However the demands of the existing programme make it unlikely that any progress will be made on future routes in the next 10 years.

Funding and timing

32. The NZ Transport Agency is committed to substantially completing the seven roads of national significance by the 2020/21 financial year, assuming funding is available. However, based on current levels and future revenue projections, this may be around 2023/24.
33. The roads are scheduled to be completed in the following order:
- Victoria Park Tunnel
 - Tauranga Eastern Corridor
 - Completing the Western Ring Route (Waterview Connection)
 - Christchurch motorways projects
 - Waikato Expressway
 - Wellington Northern Corridor
 - Puhoi to Wellsford

CONTACT DETAILS

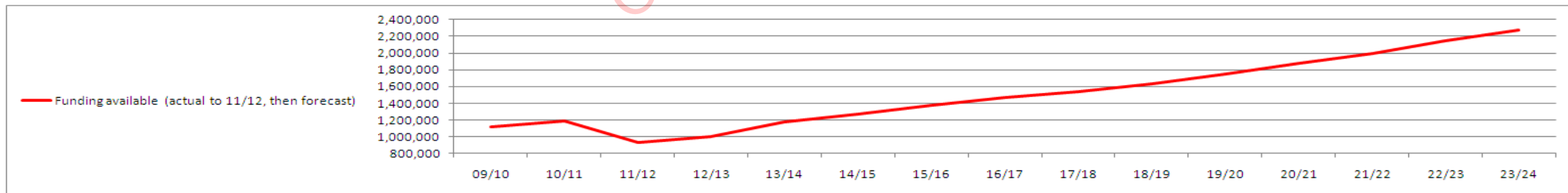
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February 2012 - RoNS construction timing

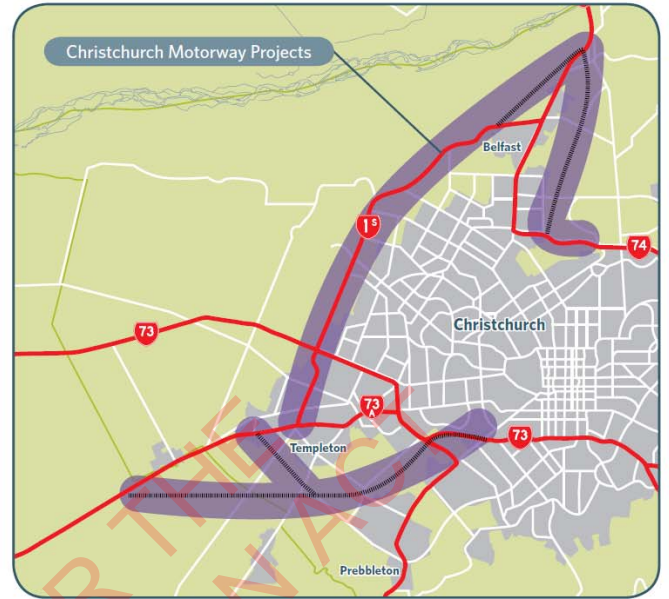


ROADS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

AUCKLAND



CANTERBURY



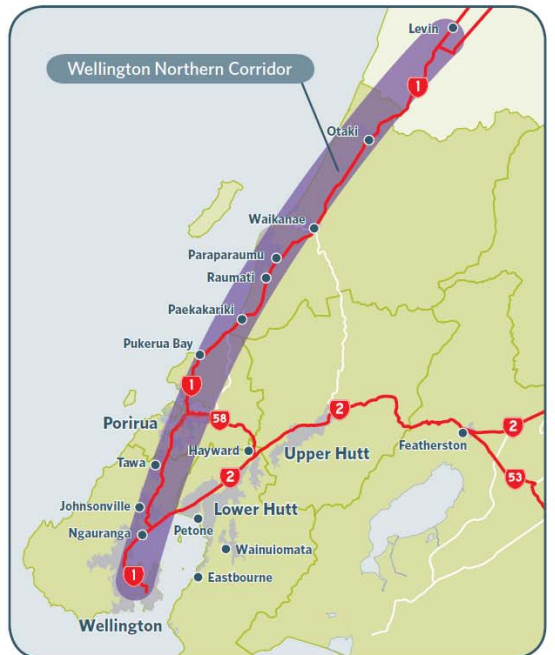
WAIKATO



BAY OF PLENTY



WELLINGTON



Discussion of regional contexts

Roads of National Significance that are in construction

Progress reports on those projects that are well progressed into their construction phases – i.e. Victoria Park Tunnel, Tauranga Eastern Corridor and Western Ring Route.

Waikato Expressway

An update on the individual projects that make up the Waikato Expressway, the timings around the substantial completion of the overall corridor.

Christchurch motorway projects

An update on Christchurch – the impact of the earthquake on overall progress, progress on the Southern Corridor construction project, progress on the development work for the Western and Northern corridors.

Wellington Northern Corridor

An update on the individual projects that make up the Wellington Northern Corridor, including their timing and important community engagement issues.

Puhoi to Wellsford

An update on progress of the development phase of the programme, challenges associated to route selection and current timings for sections of the project.

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