

Community Newsletter No. 2



STATE HIGHWAY 2 EASTERN ARTERIAL ROADING PROJECT

You may have read in the newspaper that Transit New Zealand has appointed consultants (Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd) to undertake the studies and consultation to determine a new State highway alignment that bypasses Te Puke and Waitangi. The realignment is likely to start in the vicinity of Domain Road, Papamoa and reconnect with the existing highway north of Paengaroa.

Transit New Zealand is proceeding now with the designation approval under the Resource Management Act for four-laning the highway from Te Maunga to Domain Road, Papamoa. There are no alternative feasible alignments in this section mainly because of the existing and proposed residential zoning and the railway line. Investigations and consultation have occurred and the application has been lodged with the Tauranga District Council. The consideration of grade separated (like on the Auckland southern motorway) access to the State highway between Te Maunga and Domain Road will be part of the Eastern Arterial Project.

The Eastern Arterial studies and consultation will take approximately 14 months and we will be sending out newsletters regularly to keep you informed. We will also hold Open Days to give you the opportunity to meet with the consultants and get more detailed information.

Yours faithfully

Colin Knaggs
Transit New Zealand

May 1997

STAGE ONE

The bypass study area is from Domain Road to Paengaroa and includes all the land from the existing State highway to the coast. The Te Maunga - Domain Road study area is concerned with grade separated access to the four-laned highway which is the subject of a separate designation application. Stage One of the study is to determine what lands are not suitable for a State highway. There are three major areas of investigation.

- The first is to review past investigations and available information regarding the ground conditions such as wetland or peat areas. Such land presents construction difficulties.
- The second action is to consider the Matters of National Importance that are listed in the Resource Management Act 1991 and other important environmental matters. In particular we are aware that there are likely to be sites of cultural and spiritual significance to the tangata whenua that should be avoided if at all possible. There may also be sites of ecological importance such as Wildlife Reserves and the coastal environment generally, which need to be protected from development.
- The third element is to find options that meet Transit New Zealand design guidelines and are in accordance with Transit's Economic Evaluation criteria.

If you know of other matters that may influence the initial choice of options please let the consultant team know by contacting anyone on the numbers listed below.

Stage One will end with the presentation of some alignment options to the public. The Transit New Zealand brief requires that one of the options for further study must be an upgrade of the existing State highway alignment.

STAGES TWO AND THREE

Stage Two will involve the consideration of these alignments and the comparative scoring of each to determine which is the favoured option.

Stage Three involves the in-depth study of the favoured alignment and the preparation of an Assessment of Effects which is needed to gain consent under the Resource Management Act 1991.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Full public consultation is to occur during Stages Two and Three of the Project. During Stage One targeted groups and individuals with knowledge of the relevant elements will be contacted. If you wish to be consulted please telephone any of the consultancy staff listed below.

TANGATA WHENUA CONSULTATION

The consultants will be contacting hapu representatives to organise consultation immediately to determine where the sites of cultural and spiritual importance are located. Such information will be dealt with sensitively, and if necessary confidentially, to preserve the knowledge on such matters. As a starting point contact will be made with the following groups that Transit New Zealand staff have already met with:

- Waitaha (including associated Hapu)
- Tapuika (including associated Hapu)
- Ngati Makino
- Ngati Pikia
- Ngati Whakaue
- Nga Potiki.
- Ngati Pukenga

If your hapu group has not been contacted and you would like to be consulted on this project please telephone the consultancy staff members listed below.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The consultants (Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd) have an office in Tauranga in Harrington House. You can meet by prior appointment the staff listed below or you can telephone us at any time. The contacts are:

Christine Ralph, Keith Frenz and John Hannah
Phone: 07 578 0896 Postal Address: PO Box 903, Tauranga
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The Transit New Zealand Project Manager is:
Colin Crampton. He can be contacted through phone: 07 838 8220