

# National Land Transport Programme 2009-12

## Hawke's Bay



# What has been happening in Hawke's Bay

There has been significant activity in the Hawke's Bay region over the first 18 months of the 2009-2012 NLTP, with good progress across the majority of the NLTP programme.

This includes substantial progress on the Matahorua Gorge Realignment, with the project in line for early completion in the first quarter of 2011. This project will bring significant improvements in safety and journey time reliability, particularly for freight, on the SH2 route between Napier and Wairoa. The Waipukurau Overbridge and Dillons Hill realignments have also been completed, with the SH50 Hawke's Bay Expressway Southern Extension on target for completion in early 2011.

Another major highlight for the region was the selection of the Hastings proposal as one of two programmes to receive funding under the Model Communities initiative. Work has now commenced on the two-year programme, with dedicated staff working on infrastructure, education and promotion components.

While the majority of the programme remains on track, a number of projects are facing delays or deferral. This includes the SH2 Waitangi Washout Bridge Replacement, where investigations are continuing to determine the appropriate solution given the asset condition. Until these investigations are complete, it will not be possible to determine whether design and construction phases will proceed over the balance of the current NLTP period. A number of projects have also been suspended due to a fall in funding priority, including SH2 Poukawa Swamp South passing lanes, SH50 Glencoe Gorge Realignment, Bay View to SH2/SH5 intersection seal widening and the SH2 Tangoio Straight seal widening. The NZTA is in the final stages of the Hyderabad Road/Prebenson Drive intersection feasibility study and continues to work with Napier City Council to ensure that the proposed four-laning of Prebenson Drive is appropriately integrated and will deliver a cost-effective solution.

Looking forward, the Heretaunga Plains Transportation Study is due to be substantially completed by June 2011. This study is expected to provide more certainty about the region's transport priorities over the medium to long term. Discussions are also scheduled to continue with the Wairoa and Rotorua district councils to ensure SH38 remains a safe and reliable route.



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Total	\$72.7m
Spent/committed	\$46.3m
Planned	\$26.4m

Of the regionally distributed (R) funds available to Hawke's Bay to 2015, approximately \$26.4m remain. The NZTA is planning to best utilise these remaining funds by allocating them to regional activities that align with national funding priorities. This could include local road or state highway projects. Any decision on R fund expenditure will need to consider the outcomes of the Heretaunga Plains Transportation Study.

## Other achievements and challenges

- Construction has started on Flaxmere and Omaha cycling arterials, with design phases proceeding on improvements to the Havelock and Clive cycling arterials as part of the Model Communities work.
- All maintenance, operations and renewal budgets for the state highway and local roading networks are fully committed, with the balance of the programme on track for delivery by the end of the current NLTP period.

## Investment signals

The availability of funding from the NLTP is tight and will remain so into the next NLTP. This pressure on funding means that only high-priority state highway and local road projects will be considered for investment, and close scrutiny of proposed programmes is expected to ensure outcomes will be delivered and best value for money is achieved.

It is critically important for the NZTA to be informed by approved organisations as early as possible about any funded projects or group allocations that are not likely to proceed as planned over the next 18 months, or any maintenance/renewal allocations that will not be used, so that funds can be reallocated to other high priority projects.

Looking forward, the NZTA should be in a position to provide early investment signals to approved organisations in the first half of 2011 to inform development of their 2012/15 regional land transport programmes.