

3. SOUTHERN MOTORWAY DUPLICATION AND EXTENSION

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| Officer responsible City Streets Manager | Author Paul Roberts, Transport Planning Engineer, DDI 371 1355 |
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The purpose of this report is to request the Council to endorse the following submission to Transit New Zealand from the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board regarding the proposed Southern Motorway project.

***“Southern Arterial: Submission to Transit New Zealand
(from Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board)***

The Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board welcomes this opportunity to comment on Transit New Zealand’s Scheme Investigation for the proposed Southern Motorway duplication and extension. The Board thanks Transit and their consultants for the presentation given to them on 19th November and the opportunity this gave to improve their understanding of the project.

In general, this Board supports the early completion of this important project. We recognise that it has formed part of the improvement plans for our transport network for a number of decades. We recognise that it will bring a number of benefits to both the local and wider Christchurch community in terms of relief of existing and potential future congestion and safety problems. We note that this submission confines itself to the amenity issues regarding the proposal, but strongly suggest that consideration of rail or other alternatives be given as part of overall traffic planning for the area.

That said, this Board is concerned that the final design of the project reflects the importance of this route as the ‘frontdoor’ to Christchurch from the south. We call on Transit to continue to work closely with Christchurch City Council, local landowners, residents and business people to ensure that the cross-section of the motorway corridor is not an ‘asphalt-artery’. Whilst we accept that the principal purpose is for serving as a regional and sub-regional link for cars and freight, we submit that the route, both from the perspective of users and those on adjacent land must be adequately landscaped and reflect the standards of our ‘Garden City’. We ask that Transit New Zealand work closely with the Council’s Parks and Waterways Unit when planning commences.

We strongly support the incorporation of segregated parallel facilities for cycle movement and adequate connections across the motorway for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists to ensure that the motorway does not act as a barrier between existing and planned communities.

This Board has a particular interest in the section of the existing motorway that is proposed to be duplicated. We note with satisfaction that the width of the median between the two carriageways is being proposed to be 6 metres rather than the 10-12 metres previously cited, and this will reduce the potential impact of the widening on adjacent residents on the south side of the motorway. Whilst the Board recognises that the proposed widening would occur within the long-standing motorway corridor, we still call on Transit to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures, particularly with respect to potential noise and visual intrusion are incorporated and funded as part of the project development.

We also call on Transit to ensure that the existing communities along Brougham Street are adequately considered in development of this route, particularly with respect to the potential adverse effects of increased traffic volumes and access arrangements resulting from any interchange option adopted Barrington Street. The Board does however note with satisfaction the efforts at consultation being undertaken by Transit and their consultants as part of the investigation process. Community feedback to identify and where possible address issues of concern will be integral to the success of this project. Whilst the Board does have some reservation about the notification time given to the public for recent open days, we would welcome a report summarising feedback once the invited written responses have been analysed and look forward to continued involvement in delivering this major project for Christchurch.”

Recommendation: That the Council endorse the submission outlined above from the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board to Transit New Zealand.