

19. NORTHERN ROADING OPTIONS SCOPING STUDY – UPDATE REPORT

RR 10562

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress of the North Christchurch Rooding Options Scoping Study since the last reports in December 1998 (to this Committee) and March 1999 (to the affected Community Boards).

The scoping study began in April and has been progressing through stage 0, the establishment of the computer based traffic models that will be one of the core elements of this study. This work has been slower in the set up stages than expected and indicated on the original programme due to technical difficulties in converting the strategic traffic model to another software suite (more appropriate for this study), but these have been resolved. The study is now at a stage wherein other elements are about to begin. An amended programme is attached indicating that completion of this study is now expected in June 2000. The Committee will recall from earlier reports that directly after this study a second study investigating the five preferred options would follow directly afterwards.

The next elements of the scoping study will involve a analysing the deficiencies of the roading network in the study area, and the initial stage of consultation; the latter is now programmed to begin in early November 1999 and will focus on issues and problem identification. The study brief required that at this stage the consultant would consult with the four study-partner authorities (CCC, Transit New Zealand, the Regional Council, and Waimakariri District Council). In anticipation of this the committee will recall the establishment of an elected members group, comprising four members of this Committee plus the chairs of Fendalton/Waimairi, Shirley/Papanui and Pegasus/Burwood Community Boards.

More recently there has been discussion regarding this consultation stage, both at community board level and within the study management team. It has been decided that Hurunui District Council will be invited to participate in the process during the discussions with Waimakariri District Council. There was a request from a recent joint Fendalton/Waimairi, Shirley/Papanui traffic committee meeting that these two Community Boards also meet the consultant during the Waimakariri District Council discussions. The management committee considers that this is not appropriate. This is because the meeting will already have representatives of Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils, who have similar issues and needs in terms of accessing Christchurch from the north. The addition of any Community Board members would further enlarge the group, diluting the focus and effectiveness of the consultation discussion. In any event, these Boards have representation on the City Council's group (considered by the study management team to be adequate access to the consultative process for this stage of the study), and allowing the request would in effect give certain groups "two bites at the cherry".

The consultation meetings between the consultant and the partner authorities' groups are shown on the updated programme as occurring in early November 1999. Meeting arrangements for the City Council's group will be made approximately a month prior to this time.

In addition, there has been discussion between the consultant and the study management team regarding the option of wider public consultation at this stage, rather than only beginning it later in the study. The principal purposes for initiating the wider public consultation at this point is twofold. Firstly, to bring the study to the notice of the community in a considered manner, and secondly, to make use of the local knowledge of the residents and users of the area in this part of the study which is focusing on issue and problem identification. (This issue and problem identification is being undertaken by the initial consultation process, reviewing previous studies and a road network deficiency exercise using computer modeling of the current and future situations.)

It is anticipated that the wider public consultation will run in parallel with other sections of the study and not introduce further delays to the completion date of the study. It will consist, in essence, of a media release and circular distributed through Council networks to all households, notifying them of the study and its outputs, and inviting comment regarding issue and problem identification.

The additional consultation noted above is at a cost of about \$7000, of which CCC will pay 45%. This funding will come from the existing road network improvement planning budget.

Deputy Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.