

6. NORTH CHRISTCHURCH ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT OPTIONS STUDY

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The purpose of this report is to inform committee members of a proposed study to address alternative transport options in north Christchurch. This study is to complement and inform decisions in relation to the current Northern Rooding Options Scoping Study.

The Christchurch Northern Rooding Options Scoping Study (NROSS) is currently being undertaken by Christchurch City Council, Transit New Zealand, the Canterbury Regional Council, Waimakariri District Council and Hurunui District Council. The NROSS study, which is due for completion by May-June 2000, will assess and evaluate rooding options to accommodate vehicle travel about and through north Christchurch to 2021. A variety of possible rooding strategies (composing an integrated grouping of individual projects) are being identified as part of the initial analysis. It is likely that five preferred strategies will be chosen in March 2000 for further more detailed assessment followed by initial evaluation and consultation.

However, major stakeholders, including Christchurch City Council, Canterbury Regional Council and Waimakariri District Council, are mindful of the negative effects of increased motor vehicle traffic and the need to investigate other transportation alternatives.

At the City Council stakeholder meeting for the NROSS study, the City Council's sub-committee requested that an "Alternatives To Rooding" options study should be developed. At the comparable Regional Council stakeholder meeting, similar interest in "Alternative To Rooding" options was raised. Officers of the City and Regional Councils have met on several occasions to discuss the matters related to this proposal, and a study brief is nearing completion.

It is intended that the study will include a multi-criteria analysis of all options (including the preferred rooding options from the NROSS study) to assess the level of consistency with wider strategic objectives of the major stakeholders. This multi-criteria analysis will be based on an agreed set of objectives such as those developed for the Metropolitan Christchurch Transport Strategy (MCTS)/Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS).

The principal objectives of such a study would be :

- To identify transportation options within the study area that will complement or are alternatives to the preferred rooding options from the NROSS study. These would look to maximise the use of "non-single occupant car" modes to meet travel demand through the area.
- To assess all transportation options, including the preferred rooding options, using a multi-criteria analysis based on an agreed set of objectives such as those developed for the MCTS/RLTS.

The transportation options should represent integrated packages of measures. In identifying these packages the following must be considered:

- Enhanced bus services, such as changes in frequency, service types and geographic coverage, complementary infrastructure such as bus priority measures or park and ride systems.
- Light and heavy rail options connecting Rangiora and Kaiapoi with Christchurch City (central city as a minimum).
- Cycle and pedestrian facilities.
- High Occupancy Vehicle facilities

At the 30 November City Council meeting, it was resolved that the Land Transport Subcommittee hold discussions with elected members of the Regional Council and Waimakariri District Council, in relation to Alternative to Roding options for north Christchurch. Efforts to arrange these meeting have not been successful to date, and this committee meeting has been taken as an opportunity to initiate the discussions.

The City Council's Land Transport Subcommittee considers that the City Council should manage this study in close collaboration with the Regional Council, Waimakariri District Council and Transit New Zealand. However, the Regional Council considers that the study would best be pursued as a jointly managed study, with possible partners including the City Council, the Regional Council, Waimakariri District Council and Transit New Zealand. The Regional Council's position on these matters is laid out in a letter send to the City Council. A copy of this letter is attached, along with the City Council's reply.

Transit New Zealand is aware of this study and is content to be kept abreast of developments. Hurunui District Council and Transfund New Zealand can be invited to participate at an appropriate point of study development.

Recommendation

That the information be received.