

35. NORTHERN ROADING OPTIONS SCOPING STUDY

Officer responsible Environmental Policy and Planning Manager	Author Stuart Woods, DDI 371-1615, Paul Roberts, DDI 371-1618
Corporate Plan Output: Transport Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the current situation regarding the Northern Roding Options Scoping Study, including recent progress and key upcoming elements including an intention to call a seminar for the Land Transport Subcommittee before the next Committee meeting next year.

Recently stage 3A (the initial assessment and analysis of strategies) was completed, identifying a ranked list of possible strategies. This work was then submitted for Peer Review. The Peer Review was required by the study brief, as a key checkpoint to ensure that the results from this stage are creditable and rigorous technically. The Peer Review was conducted by City Council staff, as this was considered likely to give the quickest turn around and best ongoing quality control of both this study's model and the resulting improvements to the CTS computer-based traffic model. There are in fact few modellers in New Zealand who could have conducted a detailed review of this nature.

Also during this period a consultation strategy has been developed for engaging the various stakeholders and local community. The principal objectives of the public consultation are to inform the interest groups and general public of the scope and purpose of the Northern Roding Options Scoping Study, to present the current study results along with a general description of the preferred strategies and to ascertain the specific concerns and issues associated with the respective strategies. This package proposes three key elements to undertake this stage of the study, namely a study booklet (and associated web site) detailing the findings of the study, the preferred strategies and a postage paid response form; media releases; and a series of public meetings. This public engagement proposed to be mainly focussed on a 4-week period. A seminar of the Land Transport Subcommittee will be called in late January or early February to outline the study results to that point and to present the consultation material. This date will be notified to the Subcommittee later.

Whilst awaiting the outcomes of the Peer Review, the consultant has had the opportunity to update and review previous work undertaken earlier in the study, which will have time benefits towards the end of the study as well as increasing confidence of the work done to date.

The next stage of work, stage 3B, involves working with the best strategies identified in stage 3A to refine and more rigorously analyse them. This involved more in-depth social and environmental assessments and sensitivity analysis, as well as further work on the traffic modelling/economic analysis.

The programme for the study now indicates the stage 3B should take through the Christmas break, with the consultation period occurring during February-March and the study wrapping up (with analysis of consultation outcomes, final presentations to study partners and drafting final reports) by the start of April 2001.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: Not seen by Chairman.