

9. SUBMISSION ON TRANSIT NZ DRAFT 10 YEAR STATE HIGHWAY PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Transport and City Streets Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of a proposed submission (attached) on the draft 10-Year State Highway Plan on which Transit New Zealand are currently seeking feedback. This consultation is an annual requirement under the Land Transport Management Act 2003 as part of Transit's land transport programme formulation. The official due date of the submissions was 16 March 2005.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Under legislation, each year Transit New Zealand is required to consult on its forward work programme. This is the third time that more than a single year programme has been consulted upon. The draft Plan proposes a 10-year forward programme for projects which cost in excess of \$3M, and a three year forward programme for those less than \$3M.
3. The Council has an important opportunity through this mechanism to influence and contribute to the finalisation of this year's Transit 10-year State Highway Plan. It is important therefore to compile the Council's views into a submission to respond to Transit's draft proposals.
4. The key matters identified as important by staff on which to express views are:
 - That transport planning in Christchurch should be based on our philosophy that prevention is better than cure. Therefore the urgent demands in Auckland and Wellington should not unnecessarily detract from our ability to continue with good planning and implementation.
 - Assumptions related to use of the Regionally Allocated funds (from Land Transport New Zealand).
 - Support should be given to the larger number of large projects proposed for Canterbury (up to 9 from 4) over the next 10 years, principally resulting from the additional regional funding.
 - Support should be given for the proposals to fund the design of the Southern Motorway project next financial year, with construction funding assigned for 2008-2011 (this being an advance of three years over last year's Transit Plan).
 - The need for planning certainty and investigations for future transport network improvements in the city;
 - Support should be given for the planning funding for the next stages of the north Christchurch projects (from NROSS), namely the rural Northern Arterial, QEII four laning and the Western Belfast Bypass.
 - The priority for the four-laning of Travis Road (from what appears to be a faulty assessment) needs raising.
 - The funding allocation to walking and cycling projects is inadequate, nationally and regionally.
 - There is the ongoing need to continue the good co-operation and partnership approaches to project development as has occurred in recent years.
5. A copy of the proposed City Council submission is attached for discussion, amendment if necessary, and adoption.
6. In the consultation material, Transit have asked as to whether the Council wishes to take an opportunity to present its submission to a hearing panel. Officers believe that this is a key mechanism to promote and optimise the chances of success of our issues. Therefore officers are intending to accept the opportunity, and are recommending that the presentation be delegated to the General Manager City Environment and the Transport & City Streets Manager. Should Councillors wish to participate, then the recommendation (b) below should be modified and Councillors nominated to do so. Information to date regarding these hearings is only that they will be regionally-held and will occur sometime in March-April.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no direct financial implications related to this submission.
8. The Council is not under any legal obligations in relation to this submission.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Adopt the attached submission, subject to any amendments, for forwarding to Transit New Zealand as its views on the draft 2005/06-2014/15 10-Year State Highway Plan.
- (b) Approve the General Manager City Environment and the Transport and City Streets Manager to represent the Council's submission to the regional hearings.