

Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

Report To: UDS Implementation Committee
Subject: Christchurch Northern Access Transport Investigations
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1. Purpose of Report

To advise the UDS Implementation Committee (UDS IC) of the Term of Reference for the Christchurch Northern Access Transport Investigations (CNATI) that will confirm the macro-scope of Northern Access Package activities and their staging for implementation.

2. Background

The Christchurch Northern Access Package is identified in the Canterbury Transport Regional Implementation Plan (CTRIP) as providing vital access to Christchurch and the Port of Lyttelton from the north. Being within the Greater Christchurch UDS area, the development and assessment of the transport package is being overseen by the UDS Transport Group.

This CNATI study builds upon the Strategic Directions Study and PT Futures Study recently undertaken, and will involve a more detail assessment of the Christchurch Northern Access area travel demands based on the UDS and RPS plan change 1, and variations 1 to 4. Land use investigations through the Belfast Area Plan and the previous transport studies identify the Northern Access as a high public transport demand route.

The CNATI study focuses on the short to medium term transport plan for the area, while a parallel Public Transport Corridors Study is being undertaken to ascertain what the long term public transport system will look like in Northern Christchurch.

3. Christchurch Northern Access Transport Investigation (CNATI) Project

The package of activities for the Northern Access includes bus priority measures, the Northern Arterial and extension, QEII Drive, Cranford St and Hills Road upgrades, and supporting walking, cycling and travel demand management initiatives. Many of these activities are inter-related and all contribute towards the overall transport outcomes sought for the area. This CNATI study is being undertaken to confirm the macro-scope of each activity (shape, form and function), how the activities contribute to the overall package, and the optimal timing for each component. This will constitute the "Package Assessment" required by the Planning Programming and Funding Manual (PPFM) to secure future funding from NZTA, and confirm the implementation plan and staging for inclusion in the Regional Land Transport Programme and LTCCP's.

The investigations will use the land-use patterns included in the RPS plan change 1 and variations 1 to 4 as the basis for future travel demand forecasts. The resultant travel demands by various modes of transport (vehicle driver, passenger, public transport, cycle and walking), will be used to determine the implementation plan and timing for the package. The assessment will be based upon key performance indicators developed that take into account the NZTS, the RLTS and GPS targets and objectives.

4. Terms of Reference

The study is jointly funded by NZTA, CCC, ECan and Waimakariri DC and is overseen by a steering group of members from the UDS Transport Group. The key assessment work will be undertaken by specialist consultants but will include regular workshops with the respective organisations overseeing the project.

The outputs from the study include:

- A concise summary report of previous studies including commentary on issues.
- An overview of the initial Package that is suitable for the initial modelling and includes a draft macro scope for proposed Activities, details of the linkage to other Activities, and activity implementation timing along with a proposed Do Minimum Package network.
- An updated overview report following the workshop.
- Model Report detailing model validation, travel demand and mode split for the Package and an assessment of the initial Package against KPI's and NZTS targets.
- Package Assessment report detailing travel demand and mode split for the revised Package and results from sensitivity testing.
- A final stand alone Package Assessment report for the Northern Access, detailing Activity macro scopes, identifying linkages, timing and alignment with the NZTS.

The timeline for the work is:

- Completion of scope overview and Activity linkages, early **March 2009**
- Completion of travel demand modelling and initial Package assessment, end **May 2009**
- Completion of revised modelling and sensitivity testing, end **June 2009**
- Completion of Package assessment, end **July 2009**
- Completion of final Package assessment report, end **August 2009**

5. Recommendation

That the UDS IC receives the report "Christchurch Northern Access Transport Assessment" and notes the terms of reference.