

Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

Report To: UDS Implementation Committee
Subject: North and Southwest Public Transport Corridors Study
Report Authors: Robert Woods, Chair UDS Transport Group
Report Date: 16 March 2009

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the UDS Implementation Committee about an upcoming UDS project to investigate future public transport options for the north and southwest access corridors.

2. Objective

In 2008, Parsons Brinckerhoff Pty Ltd completed the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures Study. The purpose of the study was to develop a potential strategic passenger transport network plan to meet the demands of future development to 2041 as projected by the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS), and to undertake a preliminary assessment of appropriate passenger transport modes to service the future network. This study recommended that a bus-based public transport network would be best placed to meet Greater Christchurch's future growth demands until at least 2041, but suggested that the northern and southwestern corridors will need bus rapid transit to enhance capacity and cater for this growth. More work now needs to be done to examine a broad range of options (not just BRT) for these two corridors to determine which would be the most suitable future option at 2041 (being the current UDS planning horizon), but also to look beyond that time, to the extent possible.

The purpose of the North and Southwest Public Transport Corridors Study is to further develop the findings of the previous investigation by examining forecast demands in more detail and to review opportunities for a range of potential public transport mode options along the southwest and northern corridors into the future. A primary objective in doing this is to identify any actions or further investigation required in the short to medium term to inform decision making on such potential long term network developments, essentially with a view to ensuring such options are not foreclosed through for example, inappropriate land use development.

3. Process

This study will be conducted in two stages as outlined below, and in the attached timeline.

The first stage will involve the identification of future passenger demand based on the UDS settlement pattern to 2041. This will be brought to a level of detail now made possible by the updated Christchurch Transportation Model and will take into account potential scenarios around wider transport policy and travel costs, from which will be derived potential public transport mode shares (approximating to H/M/L demand scenarios) through these corridors. Each public transport demand scenario will then be extrapolated further into the future by using, for example, the best information available on population trends beyond 2041 and scenarios around potential future transport costs. The investigation will then develop up to four possible public transport scenarios on each corridor to meet these demands over time, including "bus on street with priority", "bus rapid transit", "light rail" and "heavy rail", or any combination of these at the same time or over time. These will then be evaluated via an assessment framework to establish their effectiveness in achieving transport sector and wider UDS objectives, as well as considerations of practical buildability and deliverability. The two most feasible options for each corridor will be taken forward to stage 2.

Stage 2 of the investigation involves a more detailed assessment of the two options for each corridor carried forward from stage 1, and includes a 'real world' assessment of the planning processes and wider policy environment necessary to support each option, the land needed (if required) to allow the option to develop, capital expenditure costs, operational expenditure and maintenance costs and potential funding streams. Outputs from stage 2 will include a recommended public transport "future" for each corridor with indicative costs and timing. It will also include the identification of any risks and barriers to

achieving such a future, and any short term actions necessary to ensure such a future is not lost because of inappropriate land use development (for example).

4. Timeline

- Request for proposals were issued on Friday 06 March.
- Proposals to be received no later than Friday 27 March.
- Consultants will be commissioned by Friday 03 April.
- Stage 1 complete by Friday 26 June.
- Stage 2 complete by Friday 16 October.

5. Funding

This project is considered by officers to be a UDS project. The contract will be administered by Environment Canterbury but will be jointly funded by all of the UDS partners, with proportions as agreed by the UDS Transport Group. The project will be steered and peer reviewed by the UDS Transport Group.

6. Recommendation

That the UDSIC receives the report "North and Southwest Public Transport Corridors Study" and endorses the proposed approach to the investigations.