

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Mayor and Councillors  
**FROM:** Gary Clark, Transportation Manager  
**DATE:** 21 October 2009  
**SUBJECT:** **TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

---

## 1 ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The road maintenance contractors have had their challenges this month with continued wet weather which has made it difficult to address water-related defects such as potholes. Nevertheless they have where possible addressed the issues and will have to go back when the district dries out to put in more permanent repairs. There have also been several issues with logging operations damaging the roads particularly in the wet weather and all contractors have been trying to actively manage the maintenance to hold the roads in a reasonable condition.

There have been several severe weather events over the last month resulting in road closures. The contractor and consultants have dealt with the different events promptly and effectively on top of their usual day-to-day operations.

Downer EDi Works have had a noticeable improvement in their performance and continue to make improvements as they gain a better understanding of the networks they now manage. Furthermore I have received several phone calls from residents complimenting Downer EDi Works response. They have also carried out some rework under their own initiative as they were not happy with the standard of the finished product. There have been some problems with the RAMM software they use to record faults and these are being addressed.

Tenders for the rehabilitation contracts and resealing contracts have been approved with Tasman Civil successful in both the rehabilitation contracts. Fulton Hogan was successful in the two year resealing programme with very close prices received from tenders.

## 2 WORKS PROGRAMME

The works programmes are nearing finalisation subject to the constantly changing environment which the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is providing. In the next few months various tenders will go out to the market so we can complete our programme for this financial year. As these projects roll out I will provide details on the progress of our programme.

A separate exercise but linked to the Works Programme is the ranking project list which will list all the works that have been identified within the district. This list is not exhaustive. As I have explained before these ranked lists will be analysed against set criteria. These lists are also near completion and I will circulate them to the Committee for their information and to allow the addition of other projects that may have been left off. At the

next Committee meeting I will explain in more detail the ranking system and how it is applied to the individual lists.

### **3 RUBY BAY BYPASS**

The Ruby Bay pass is still progressing well even though it has slowed somewhat as a result of the recent wet weather. The culvert structures are completed and work has started on the Harley Road cycle connection at the northern end of the project.

The project is expected to be completed next year (weather depending) and ahead of schedule. It is hoped that the route will be open before winter 2010. An official opening along with a public open day is planned to celebrate the introduction of this important piece of infrastructure into the district. This open day will allow people to walk and ride the route before vehicles use the route.

### **4 POHARA SEA WALL PROJECT**

The Pohara Sea Cycle/Walk project has been listed in the Ten Year Plan for construction this financial year. The project was designed and resource consent was granted in 2003 and apart from minor design changes the project will be ready to be constructed this financial year. The project had an initial cost estimate of around \$340,000.

NZTA are in the process of changing how cycle/walk projects are funded and it is most likely this project will not receive any subsidy to assist in the construction. I have arranged a value engineering exercise on the design to find ways to make this facility more affordable and will report back to Council on how this project can be funded.

### **5 OFFICE OF TREATY SETTLEMENTS**

Tasman District Council has been approached by the Office of Treaty Settlements to resolve outstanding issues relating negotiations with local iwi. As part of resolving disputes between the Crown and local iwi, two sites have been identified as having special importance to the iwi. These two sites involve an old section of road around Pah Point and a small section of roadway in Wainui Bay.

At Pah Point the original roadway went around the edge of the bluff. Some time ago a new road was cut along the coastline with the old road remaining partially in place. The local iwi would like this land to be transferred. This land is surplus to our requirements. There is a long history relating to this area between the local iwi and Council. This will provide an opportunity to right some past wrongs and pass the land to the local iwi.

The other section of land involves a piece of Abel Tasman Drive which has been built on a urupa in Wainui Bay. We have been asked by the Office of Treaty Settlements to consider options to have either the road moved to one side or allow for the removal of ancestral remains along with artefacts to another site. I have investigated the possible options.

A rough order of costs have been sought for each the options. The associated costs are provided below.

Option	Description	Cost
<b>Permanent Road Realignment</b>	This option will move the road away from the urupa site	<b>\$379,200</b>
<b>Relocate Urupa with a temporary road</b>	This option closes the current road to allow the removal of the urupa by constructing a temporary road	<b>\$202,300</b>
<b>Relocate Urupa by one lane closures</b>	<b>This option closes one lane while the urupa is removed. Will involve a longer time period</b>	<b>\$169,800</b>

As shown each option carries significant costs appreciating that they have a high contingency because of the unknowns. Council has no funding available to carry out this work. Council staff will be discussing this matter in greater detail with the Office of Treaty Settlements in order to gain funding for this critical iwi issue.

## 6 ROAD BUDGETS

The Annual Plan process is fast approaching. As part of that process I will be reviewing our programme and the ability for Council to afford a number of projects that now will not receive NZTA funding. As the committee will be aware NZTA have reduced funding for projects that do not have any economic drivers. This means most of the funding for new works will be within major urban areas. Also NZTA are unlikely to fund any walking/cycling projects.

This will have a significant impact on our works programme in the next three years. The lack of NZTA funding will mean that we have to reduce our subsidised work programme and/or allocate more local share into these projects to enable them to be completed.

On top of this, there have been a number of road slips in the district that will require attention putting a further strain on our road budgets along with high value projects that should be considered as part the overall improvements to some of our roads. Such projects include dealing with some of the safety and road security issues for the route to Abel Tasman National Park, the seal extension planned for 88 Valley Road and Pohara Sea Wall project.

As part of the Annual Plan process more information will be provided.

## 7 ROAD SAFETY COORDINATORS REPORT – OCTOBER 2009

### 7.1 Motorcycle training courses

Promotion of these courses and general motorbike safety issues were highlighted during the Founders Motorbike show in September. The next courses are scheduled for 31 October, 1 November and 21 and 22 November.

During the last week of October/first week of November there will be a joint project with ACC, NCC and the police. This will involve stopping commuter scooter and motorbike riders at key locations throughout Nelson and Richmond. Checks will be carried out on license conditions, WoF standard to a basic level and riding gear being used. The courses

will be promoted during these stops, the new road rule requiring riders to turn on their headlamps during daylight and the importance of correct riding gear.

## **7.2 Billboards**

The billboards designed by Ngatimoti School students are progressing with the students visiting Dry Crust before the holidays to see the first copies of their designs. The students also had a tour of the Council with Cr Norriss and spoke to several employees and were asked to give input into a design of a new playground in Richmond.

## **7.3 A 4 A meeting**

The first A 4 A meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This proactive forum will address issues regarding accessibility and mobility across the region to make this available for all.

## **7.4 School Travel Plans**

Brightwater School's travel plan was launched on Friday 16 October 2009. Already some areas of the plan are being implemented - the school has been made more visible from Ellis Street as trees have been removed and investigation into options regarding the improvement of the footpath by the petrol station on Ellis Street has begun.

Work is continuing with the Salisbury cluster of schools. Work has started regarding safety issues with Waimea Intermediate students who use the bus service. We plan to work with the student council to develop a road safety campaign.

We are aiming to set up a cycle train at Lower Moutere School using the shared path which runs along Queen Victoria Street from Motueka airfield to Lower Moutere School. Safety leaflets are being developed regarding walking and cycling to school. They will become part of the new entrant starter packs with the aim to increase the numbers walking or cycling to school. These have been positively received and have been individualised for each school.

## **7.5 Funding and future planning**

Budgets are still out for review but should be agreed on soon. Planning is underway for a future summer road safety campaign, continuation and development of the child restraint campaign and a young driver's day in March which will be held at the A&P showground's and involves all colleges in Nelson and Tasman.

There will also be continuation of other projects – fatigue, walking and cycling promotion and safety, school travel plans, billboard road safety messages, intersections.

## **8 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES 2004 - 2008**

The briefing notes outlining road safety issues in Tasman District for the 2004-2008 period are attached. The report is based on reported crash data and trends for this four-year period. The report covers both local roads and state highways.

For the 2008 year there were eight deaths, 41 serious injuries, 152 minor injuries – a total of 201 casualties. The report highlights the major road safety issues for the Tasman region, and national issues. For Tasman the top five road safety issues are:

- Loss of control at bends
- Crossing / turning
- Vulnerable road users (motorcyclists / cyclists)

- Alcohol
- Fatigue

These issues differ slightly from national issues which are speed, alcohol, failure to give way and restraints.

## 9 RIVERS

A review of the river rating system depends on obtaining suitable software which Corporate Services can use to store, manipulate, analyse and forecast projected income on a catchment-by-catchment basis. Murray Staite is investigating the use of specialist local authority-developed software that will link rating systems with GIS mapping and valuation data. This is aimed at offering us a modern equitably approach for Tasman District Council and is a project that requires close inter-departmental cooperation to ensure that the end products fit everyone's objectives.

The new Rivers Maintenance Contractor, Ferguson Brothers Ltd is now settled into the new work programme and performance is acceptable. MWH is about to begin the first consultant-generated Annual Operating Maintenance Programme (AOMP). We are assisting with trials of suitable hand-held GPS linked data logging equipment that can automate much of the data processing, monthly scheduling, auditing and forward-planning of river-based works. Software needs to be personalised to fit Council's Classified Rivers System. Information Services, MWH and Engineering staff are coordinating the approach

## 10 TENDERS

No.	Contract name	No. of tenders	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	TDC estimate	Budget for this item	Comment
766	Pavement Rehabilitation – Package 1	4	Tasman Civil	\$312,430	\$548,825	\$505,635	-	Part of total rehabilitation budget of \$1,285,000
771	Sealed Road Resurfacing – 2009-2011	3	Fulton Hogan	\$3,268,823	\$3,423,049	\$3,398,655	-	Contract works are spread over two financial years.
774	Pavement Rehabilitation – Package 2	4	Tasman Civil	\$322,638	\$645,925	\$508,835	-	Part of total rehabilitation budget of \$1,285,000

## 12 RECOMMENDATION

**THAT this report be received.**

Gary Clark  
**Transportation Manager**