

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee  
**FROM:** Gary Clark, Transportation Manager  
**DATE:** 04 May 2009  
**SUBJECT:** **TRANSPORTATION REPORT - MAY**

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### 1 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

#### • **New Road Maintenance Contracts**

The contracts for Waimea and Tasman road maintenance have been awarded with Downer EDi Works being successful for both contracts. The new contracts commence on 1 July 2009 for a duration of at least three years. The tender prices were very competitive and a report to the next Engineering Services Committee meeting will provide details of potential issues as a result of changing from the incumbent contractor, Fulton Hogan.

An initial start up meeting has been held with MWH and Downer EDi Works to discuss the contract, our expectations and develop working relationships between the Engineers Representative and Contractors. In the initial meeting MWH has made it clear to the Downer EDi Works that Tasman District Council expects no reduction in the standard of the roads within the contract area and will be anticipating an overall improvement on the network. Tasman District Council will be involved in the next meeting to further explain our expectations and the level of service we require for the maintenance and operation of our roads.

Three areas of contract have had new tendered rates below the existing budgets creating potential opportunities to reallocate and/or reduce some of these budgets. These are:

- Sealed Pavement Maintenance
- Unsealed Pavement Maintenance
- Unsealed Road Metalling

The reduced tender rates for Contracts 757 and 758 total approximately \$850,000/year in potential reallocation and/or reduction.

Several factors have been considered in analysing any reallocation or reduction of budgets, including:

- As a contingency, moving into the new contractual arrangement with a new contractor, it would be advisable to allow \$230,000 in the first year of the new contracts (09/10) at least to cover for any unexpected issues arising. If nothing is identified in year 1, this value could be reallocated or used to reduce budgets in 10/11 and beyond;
- Additional contract monitoring by Council over and above the usual expectations, required to ensure the Contractor is achieving the required quality of outputs given their low tender prices. This may result in higher costs to

manage the contract. We will need to monitor the impacts of changing to Downer EDi Works.

- Opportunities to improve the roading asset and/or regain ground previously lost due to budgetary pressures. Two areas identified include achieving annual reseal length of 70km, rather than the current 60-65km due to escalating costs, at a cost of \$200,000/yr. Another area is to improve preventive maintenance by increasing culvert renewals or other drainage maintenance, at a cost of \$100,000/yr. This should reduce the long-term exposure to emergency expenditure.
- Other matters include the programming of works such as cycle connections to the Ruby Bay Bypass and public transport initiatives.

- **Bridge Maintenance**

Detailed bridge inspections have been undertaken to 40 of the 54 bridges programmed. From these inspections there are eight bridges identified of high priority to have work completed this financial year. These eight bridges were singled out early on as having a high priority due to previous inspection findings as well as use and current weight and speed restrictions.

The Cobb Power Station Bridge requires steel beams cleaned and painted as well as several bearing plates replaced. This is work in progress.

Salisbury Swing Bridge – We are waiting for a report from MWH on the estimated price for replacement of the tower option. This bridge is covered by a Historic Places Trust order.

Under the Footbridge Maintenance Contract (Contract 670) Nelmac has identified eight bridges requiring various minor works from replacing hand rails to fixing loose boards and clearing vegetation. This work is due for completion by mid May 2009, and includes footbridges over the Moutere Stream near Wills Rd, Wilson's as well as Swing-bridges next to Drummond, Holdaway and Ching Roads, work to Pokororo Suspension Bridge over the Motueka River, Dart River Ford bridge and Golden Hills Road footbridge.

- **Carparks**

Both Motupipi Street Carpark Takaka and Papps Carpark Richmond (off Cambridge St) are programmed for resurfacing. Papps Carpark is to be resurfaced with asphalt whilst the Motupipi Street Carpark has had the entrance laneway surfaced in asphalt and the parking area chip sealed. Council has earmarked the adjacent land to the Motupipi Street carpark that Waitapu Engineering occupied for extending the existing carpark. The reseal will extend the life of the pavement until the new carpark is developed enabling the entire carpark to be surfaced with one homogenous surface. The proposed enlarged carpark has been redesigned to increase the number of car parks along with improving the layout.

## 2 PROJECTS

- **Minor Road Improvements (Minor Safety)**

Minor Improvements to the network have been undertaken or are about to commence by Fulton Hogan around the district. Seal widening has been completed outside Hogleund Glass. Other works include four curves with poor camber which are being reshaped, sight improvements to the intersection of Tadmor Bushend and Fairhall Road, and an upgrade

of the road marking and signs to Central Road, Old House Road, and Waiwhero Roads. Independent Kerb & Concrete are undertaking minor improvements to a further six sites including the installation of two school crossings.

- **Talbot Salisbury Signals**

The installation of the signals and associated road and utility upgrades to the intersection of Talbot Street and Salisbury Road was awarded to Chings Contracting. They have completed the majority of the underground utility upgrades and have recently started the additional roadway construction on Talbot Street. Work is on track for completion prior to the end of the financial year.

- **Bridge Valley & Moore Roads Seal Extension**

Ferguson Brothers completed this work in late April.

- **New Footpaths Contract 764**

The contract for this work has been let to C J Industries of Motueka and is due for completing by the end of this financial year.

The sites include a new path along the eastern side of Tudor Street, a new path and associated kerb and channel in Selwyn Street Motueka, a short section of path on the north western side of Lord Rutherford Road North connecting the existing path to Newman Avenue, reconstruction of the existing gravel path on Bateup Road in asphalt and a new path on the western side of Iwa Street Mapua from the existing path and Mapua Domain entrance to Toru Street.

- **Shared Use Paths Contract 765**

This contract has recently been awarded to Concrete & Metals Ltd of Motueka and is due for completing by end of June 09. The two shared path sites in this contract are the Railway Reserve path from Lower Queen Street to the existing gravel path near the Skateboard park and the continuation of the shared path on Main Road Lower Moutere from School Road to Community Road at Riverside Community settlement.

- **Wairoa Left Branch Road**

The signage and gate for the end of Wairoa Left Branch Road have been installed. Keys have been issued to stakeholders. MWH has been instructed to carry out and organise regular inspections of the gate and sign through the maintenance contracts.

- **Dust suppressant trials**

Trials of dust suppressant are still continuing with initial results showing some benefits in dust reduction. The dust suppressant has also been used on parts of Old Coach Road as part of the construction of the Ruby Bay Bypass.

A new product has recently come to our attention which will also be trialled. This product acts as a soil binder resulting in a denser soil structure and significantly less dust. The results of the trials will be presented to the Engineering Services Committee in due course. These trials are weather dependant as we are now heading into winter when dust is less of an issue.

- **Design and build contracts**

No work at this stage has been undertaken in identifying key projects where a design and build contract could be tendered. It is prudent with the end of the 2008/2009 financial year and the tendering of two maintenance contracts to identify key projects as part of the new financial year 2009/2010. We will need to identify projects with similar outputs to ensure any evaluation is robust. I note that we do have some work that are design and build but no real savings are expected because the design is very small.

### 3 ROAD SAFETY COORDINATION

- **Bike Wise 2009**

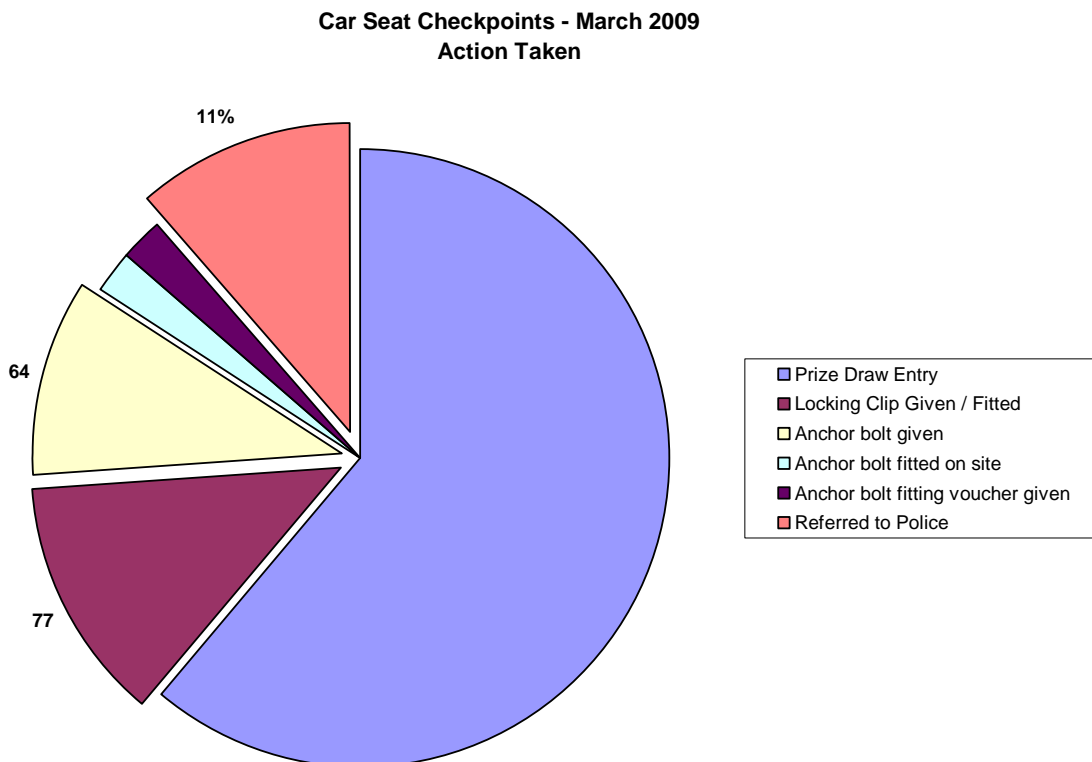
Due to heavy rain the Bike Wise family fun ride in Motueka was postponed. The new date is Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The ride starts at 10am at the Skate Park on Old Wharf Road with a short and longer ride.

All Councillors and their families are encouraged to take part in this free family ride.

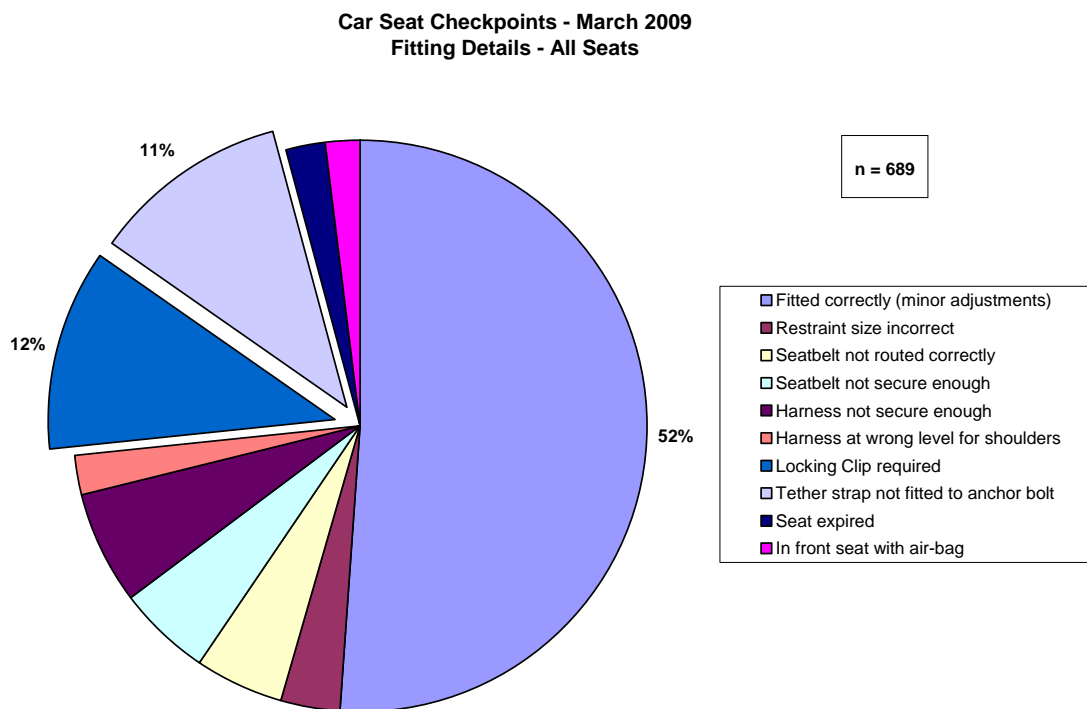
- **Child restraints checking clinics and stops**

During this joint campaign involving both Councils, the Police, Plunket, Safe 2 Go and local garages over 700 seats were checked throughout Tasman and Nelson.

From the graph below it can be seen that 374 seats were correctly fitted which was 62% of all seats checked and recorded. Some of the issues were corrected on site and 11% were referred to the Police. The car owner was given the opportunity to fix the issue and if they did so within 14 days and got the seat signed off by a trained technician the ticket was cancelled.



The graph below shows a breakdown of what the safety issues were amongst the incorrectly fitted seats. Some of the issues were easy and quick to fix on site, whilst 11% did not have a tether strap attached to the anchor bolt which does not meet with the seat manufacturers' requirements.



Public awareness was also raised through print and radio media coverage and information distributed through kindergartens.

- **Intersection campaign**

Work has begun on compiling a newspaper tabloid highlighting Intersection safety in the Nelson/Tasman region. This is a joint project between both councils, NZTA and ACC. In addition to last years content the tabloid will also include information on other issues for our region including:

- Loss of control on bends
- Crossing the centre line
- Pedestrians – road crossings
- Sharing the pathway
- Rural roads and driveways
- Sharing rural roads with cyclists and horses

A youth focus will see the campaign taken to High schools during lunch breaks and using the large “intersection wheel” with some interactive quizzes being run and some giveaways such as road codes distributed. Alongside the print media campaign a radio

campaign and competition will be run. In addition we will have “spotters” at intersections controlled by compulsory stops and traffic signals and will be direct mailing those who do not comply with the rules.

- **School Travel Plans**

The second round of consultation during the Brightwater School gala went well and raised a few new issues which are being dealt with, for example trimming of trees along the roadside on Ellis Street.

Work is ongoing with Wakefield School with respect to setting up Walking School Buses there. A letter drop has taken place along with an item in the Wakefield Village News advertising the Walking School Buses. This scheme will be launched in the next month. The school should soon have their Kea crossing installed. All 9 and 10 year olds at Wakefield School have successfully completed their level 1 cycling skills course and will go on to take level 2 road cycling skills this term. It is hoped that students who are 10 and above will be given permission to cycle to school once they have achieved this level. Work is about to commence this term with Waimea Intermediate and Waimea College, as well as Salisbury School. The surveys for these schools will be completed online by the students.

As well as these School Travel Plans Sarah has sent out a newsletter item to all primary schools advising on Child Car Seat Restraints for Primary aged children and will conduct an audit of what is happening in Tasman schools in regard to Walking School Buses.

- **Safety map**

This is a joint project with NCC, ACC, NZTA and the Police. The project involves the production of a map of the Top of the South Island which include roads, journey times and route specific safety information such as:

- Trucks frequent with towing vehicles in summer
- Congested at peak times during the week
- Steep winding road with some unexpected difficult bends
- Road is winding and at times narrow with limited passing opportunities
- During winter ice setting on the roads is a major hazard with unexpected shaded, slippery road conditions
- Fog in low lying areas visibility can be significantly reduced
- Limited passing opportunities
- High density farming and activity

A similar map has been produced in other places in New Zealand with early outcomes being positive. This map will be distributed via the Cook Strait Ferries, tourist service operators, work places and suppliers to motorists such as petrol stations and in conjunction with the fatigue vouchers. Approximately 20,000 will be printed and distributed.

- **Motorcycle training courses**

An intermediate and advanced course was held in the last weekend in April at Waimea College. There were 38 riders taking part and all provided positive feedback. Many have signed up for another course and have indicated their interest in a maintenance course to be held in August.

Other motorbike initiatives include:

- week long compulsory stop campaign which will check warrants, registrations and provide opportunity to advise on training courses and safety gear;
- course at Waimea College for all students that ride to school;
- new billboard images;
- print media coverage and competition.

- **Cycle/ pedestrian visibility**

A number of bike lights (and batteries), high visibility bands and vests have been purchased for distribution to walkers/ joggers and cyclists who are out before or after dark. Some will be supplied directly to large employers who have staff on shift work and the Police where they will be fitted directly onto bikes which do not have lights. Some will go to all service centres and if stocks allow a local bike group will help distribute these in the early morning and after work at dusk. A press release and article in Newline will accompany this campaign.

## **4 RIVERS**

### **River Care Groups**

We are planning to have meeting with the River Care Groups in July/August. These will be advertised at the beginning of July seeking attendance of interested stakeholders.

### **Riparian/River Management**

Crack Willow will continue to be removed from rivers as funds allow. This process is expected to take some time under the current river rating scheme. We will be carrying out more work on the management of Crack Willow and the river rating system to be more transparent. This will allow us to better manage the issues for the areas with the greater problems. Regulation under unwanted organism legislation obliges Council to control the propagation of crack willow in our rivers, either by actively managing this through our work programme or by minimising passive propagation that occurs through natural events.

### **Gravel Relocation Works**

We have verbal approval from Environmental and Planning to work in dry section of Takaka River. It is suggested by Environmental and Planning that we are able to do this work under the previous consents. Work on the dry river bed will be carried out by Solly's when the river levels drop. We are hoping to start work over the next couple of weeks. There are eleven resource consent applications still progressing with the Environment & Planning Department.

### **Maintenance and Management of Rivers, Streams, Creeks and Drains**

Fletcher Vautier Moore have met with Environment and Planning to discuss implications of how to define rivers, streams, creeks and drains in Part IV of the TRMP. Fletcher Vautier Moore reaffirmed their belief that schedules of various asset/categories of water bodies will need to be an outcome of what the TRMP lists. We will make further enquires as to the status of schedules required by the Local Government Act 1984 when the Catchment Board went to Regional Council and later to Unitary Authority.

### **Rivers Maintenance Contract 760**

The tenders have closed for the Rivers Maintenance Contract. A total of five proposals were received. Evaluation is underway with a report detailing the preferred tender prepared for the Tenders Committee with the new contract starting on 1 July 2009.

## 5 TENDERS

Tenders recently awarded are:

No.	Contract name	No. of tenders	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	TDC estimate	Budget for this item	Comment
750	Talbot Street/Salisbury Road signals	3	Ching Contracting Ltd	\$899,270	\$1,020,600	\$846,210	-	Funding from several different work categories
755	Bridge Valley & Moore Road seal extension	5	Ferguson Bros	\$277,698	\$388,529	\$263,155	-	Funding from several different work categories
756	Minor roading improvements 2008/2009	5	Independent Kerb & Concrete	\$128,877	\$157,523	\$104,905	-	Part only minor improvements budget
757	Tasman roading maintenance	4	Downer EDi Works	\$4,271,353	\$5,514,777	\$5,831,253		Funding from several different work categories
758	Waimea roading maintenance	5	Downer EDi Works	\$3,826,591	\$6,148,418	\$6,578,369	-	Funding from several different work categories
764	New footpaths 2008/2009	7	CJ Industries	\$108,276	\$181,164	\$128,105	\$105,678	
765	Shared-use paths 2008/2009	7	Concrete & Metals	\$188,124	\$309,200	\$288,315	-	Part only shared use paths budget

## 6 RECOMMENDATION

**THAT this report be received.**

Gary Clark  
**Transportation Manager**