

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Gary Clark, Transportation Manager
(Prepared by Steve Elkington Transportation Project Engineer)

REFERENCE: RD3395

DATE: 24 January 2011

SUBJECT: **GIBBS VALLEY ROAD SEAL EXTENSION – RESC-11-02-04**
Report prepared for meeting of 3 February 2011

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Engineering Services Committee to report to the full Council recommending that the Gibbs Valley Road Seal Extension project be put on hold and withdrawn from Council's Long Term Plan when it is reviewed in 2012.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In Council's current Annual Plan, funding has been budgeted for in the current financial year of \$26,096 for investigation and design for the Seal Extension of Gibbs Valley Road (Item 43). A further \$268,142 is allocated in the Long Term Plan for construction activity in the next financial year 2011/12. This is a total combined budget allocation of \$294,238 over the two year period.
- 2.2 The seal extension of Gibbs Valley Road is 1.53 km in length and extends from the end of the seal at route position 0.37km to 1.90km at the Bridge Valley Road intersection. The land on either side of Gibbs Valley Road is Zoned Rural 2 except for near the end of the road where it changes to Rural 1.
- 2.3 Investigation to date for the Gibbs Valley Road seal extension has revealed the following:
- A reasonably robust estimate of the work has the cost at \$495,000. This estimate includes a contingency of \$50,000 as well as consultants fees. Therefore based on the funding budgeted of \$294,238, there is a possible shortfall of approximately \$200,000;
 - The legal road reserve varies in width thereby requiring additional land to be purchased along with some road legalisation. Whilst the purchase of land which is zoned Rural 2 is not expected to be significant there are issues with a 250 metre section of road frontage which has a two metre discrepancy in the boundary position. Unfortunately the land concerned is "limited as to parcels"

meaning neither the occupier nor Council has clear title over the land which extends into road reserve;

- The land zoned either side of Gibbs Valley Road is mostly Rural 2 and is presently used for grazing;
- There are no houses that front on to the section of road proposed for sealing as these are all in the first 370 metres which is already sealed. There are no houses fronting the road section proposed for sealing.
- The latest traffic count indicates a traffic volume of approximately 81 vehicles per day including farm vehicles. This is a very low volume with no significant income flow in the foreseeable future.

3 COMMENT

3.1 There are three main issues to be confronted with sealing Gibbs Valley Road these are:

- Funding the anticipated additional cost;
- The economic justification for sealing to support the additional funding required; and
- How the sealing of this road ranks against other roading works.

3.2 Funding Options

It is highly unlikely that sufficient funding from other sources such as the Subsidised Roothing Programme would fund the cost difference. An exercise to determine other sources of funding was undertaken and only the subsidised roading programme work categories, Unsealed Road Metalling and Drainage Renewals were considered appropriate. In both cases the funding that could be used was limited. Further to these work categories is Minor Improvements which is for carrying out safety improvements to the road network, in the case of Gibbs Valley Road there was no aspect of the current road alignment or crash history to justify the use of this funding.

3.3 Economic Justification

Council has developed a Seal Extension Matrix of those roads that could meet justification for sealing. The matrix took into account such factors as traffic volumes, maintenance costs, number of residential dwellings exposed to dust, route importance and impact on high value crops. In the case of Gibbs Valley Road the matrix indicated a priority of 33rd out of 35 roads. Clearly justification on this ranking basis is very low.

3.4 A copy of the draft Seal Extension Matrix is attached for information. The matrix considers the various matters that relate to unsealed roads. The matrix does not consider growth aspects with development.

3.5 The funding and approval of seal extensions still needs to be considered by Council as part of the Long Term Plan review. Nevertheless the matrix work along with some growth component will provide a robust method of developing a work programme.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 THAT the Engineering Services Committee approve that a report is presented to the full Council recommending that all expenditure on the project 'Seal Extension Gibbs Valley Road' be deleted from the current year's programme, and that the priority for the project be reviewed during the development of the 2012 Long Term Plan, as outlined in this report RESC-11-02-04.**
- 4.2 THAT the Engineering Services Committee approves the draft Seal Extension priority list attached to the report RESC-11-02-04.**

Gary Clark
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