

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Roger Ashworth, Transportation Manager
DATE: 29 January 2008
SUBJECT: **TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

1 RICHMOND TOWN CENTRE UPGRADE

Work on the Richmond Town Centre upgrade is due to begin in early February. The contractor, Fulton Hogan has already undertaken extensive consultation with Council, the consultant, MWH and also had some discussion with affected stakeholders.

Local artist Grant Palliser's entry into the water feature concept competition was deemed the best. We are currently negotiating with and commissioning Grant to further develop his design concept which is based on a line of seven glass brick rings each representing a water source within the district. The feature will be lit at night and have water bubbling to a height of approximately 450mm. The full design has yet to be developed however we are confident that the concept can be worked through and completed as part of the construction phase within budget.

1.1 Motif Design

Attached are the two designs by Grant Palliser for inclusion in the Richmond Town Centre development. The motif design is to be incorporated in to the rubbish bins (outer sleeve) on the first stage of the works. The final design motif is to be selected by the Richmond Ward Councillors.

1.2 Name the Town Centre Competition

The following has been prepared for circulation throughout the district to find a name for the new town centre:

The Richmond Town Centre development is seeking your input for a name:

Work is underway developing the area where Croucher Street meets Queen Street to create an attractive centre for Richmond.

The area will become a meeting place with grassed areas, seating, pedestrian friendly access as well as facilities for concerts and events to be held. This exciting development needs a name to reflect the identity of this vision and that captures the vitality of Richmond.

We are asking the community to come up with a name that is applicable to our town centre, and captures what is special about our place and in particular this development.

So put pen to paper or send us an email with your suggestion before 30 April 2008.

As well as knowing your suggestion will live on in history the successful name creator will be allocated \$500 to be donated to the winner's "Charity of Choice" (must be a registered New Zealand Charitable Organisation);

The decision on the best town centre name will be made by the Tasman District Council Richmond Ward Councillors and the Mayor with a recommendation put to full council for adoption.

Please fill in the form with your suggestions and drop off at Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Richmond. Or send your suggestions to:

Name the Town Centre

*Tasman District Council
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050
Attention: Tara Cater
Or: Email tara.cater@tdc.govt.nz*

Name the Town Centre Competition

Your Suggestion/s	Your Name	Address	Phone nos

2 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Overall the networks are in good condition. Vegetation control is generally in hand however some areas, notably the Motueka Valley Highway, missed its pre-Christmas mow and this has since been undertaken. The contractor has responded well to issues raised over the Christmas period.

- **Paton Road Reconstruction**

This project is struggling to economically meet the requirements for subsidised funding from Land Transport NZ.

Last December a road safety audit was undertaken on the speed humps and associated signage to ensure these met a good standard. The audit was undertaken by OPUS International Consultants, who found the facilities to be safe. There were several minor improvements noted which were discussed at a site meeting and which have subsequently been undertaken. A copy of OPUS' letter is attached to the end of this report.

A traffic count undertaken in December 2007 indicated there had been a slight drop in traffic using Paton Road based on a traffic count taken a year earlier however until this count is repeated it is too early to confirm this trend. The daily traffic volume on Paton Rd measured near Bateup Road in December 2007 was 1753. In December 2006, the volume was 1877.

- **Seal Extensions**
 - The seal extension in Bridge Valley Road was awarded to Taylors Contracting with work due to start in late January. The designs for Bridge Valley Stage 2 and Eighty Eight Valley Road Stage 2 are completed.
 - The Kelling Road seal extension was completed prior to Christmas.
 - The earthworks are complete on Central Road and the laying of the basecourse is 80% completed.
 - Thorpe-Orinoco Road seal extension is complete.
- **Bridges**
 - Both the Anatoki Track Bridge and the Kill Devil Road Bridge upgrades are now complete.
 - Preliminary design work is underway on Black Bridge and the survey and geotech work is now complete.
- **Hart Road**
Construction was completed prior to Christmas - currently under maintenance.
- **Seal widening and major drainage projects.**
 - The upgrading works in McShane Road and Teapot Valley Road have been awarded to Fulton Hogan with work due to begin in the near future.
 - King Edward Street and Pah Street, Motueka are due to be tendered shortly.
- **Cycle Lanes**
 - Lodder Lane – This work is progressing well with the shared path completed by mid February 2008.
 - Lower Moutere – This shared path on Queen Victoria Street and Moutere Highway extending from near King Edward Street to Lower Moutere School is to be tendered shortly with construction completed before the end of this financial year.
- **Flood Damage**
Applications to Land Transport have been approved to cover reinstatement of damage to the roading network from storm events and also to cover damage to the Korere-Tophouse Road during the winter of 2007. The flood damage reports were presented to Council at the November 2007 meeting.
- **National Park Access Roads**
A meeting is to be convened in late February in Wellington to further discuss National Park access roads funding and maintenance. This is an ongoing discussion with Land Transport New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and Council. Outcomes will be reported to the Engineering Services Committee.
- **Sign and Sump Grate Vandalism**
Council's subsidised roading budget regularly funds the cost of repairing or putting right road furniture that has been vandalised, this involves mainly signage and

sump grates. This problem is common to all road controlling authorities. Council has recently undertaken a successful trial using locked sump grates. Over time, more of these grates will be installed, initially on well used cycle routes.

In terms of signage there is little that can be done as there are specific requirements as to the mounting height of signs.

As an indication of the cost of vandalism to signs across the district in the last three and a half years, this was roughly determined to be well in excess of \$120,000 or approximately \$34,000 annually. This figure was based on reports and callouts where the damage was believed to be caused by vandalism. Signs can also be affected by wind as well as struck by vehicles. The cost of replacing and reseating sump grates over the same period is approximately \$11,000 or \$3,000 annually. The costs associated with, in particular, signage vandalism appear to be increasing however based on figures over the past three and a half years, it may be too early to clearly say this is the trend. It should be noted that there is likely to be a certain amount of under reporting of vandalism.

3 LAND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL (LTMAB)

Attached is Council's submission on the LTMAB to the Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee, submitted by the Chairman Engineering Services and the Engineering Manager under delegated authority.

Hearings are expected to be held at various locations around the country during February. The Select Committee is due to report back to Parliament by 25 March 2008 for the Bill's second reading. The Bill is expected to have passed through all stages by May 2008.

The Government has also recently released its Update of the New Zealand Transport Strategy. The Engineering Manager is attending a meeting of the Local Government NZ Transport Reference Group on 1 February to consider a sector response. Submissions close on 15 February.

4 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES (FARs)

Attached is a letter of 20 December 2007 from Land Transport New Zealand advising that Council's FAR will remain at 49% in 2008/2009, but on the indicated LTCCP Land Transport programme the Council's FAR will reduce to 48% in 2009/2010. Adjustments in land transport funding will need to reflect this subsidy change as Council works through the development of its 2009 Draft LTCCP.

5 RIVERS

Motueka River Flood Control

A Councillor only workshop has been set down for the afternoon of Tuesday 4 March 2008 following the E&P meeting in the Chamber to consider the forward programme for the Motueka River Flood Control project. The key investigation

findings, preliminary design issues and public information programme will be presented.

A number of public information articles to inform ratepayers of the various aspects related to the review of the Motueka stopbank system are being developed to put into Newsline in coming fortnights. More detailed information will be placed on the TDC website to compliment the general information for those who would like to know more after each Newsline release. The first article is due in print before the end of March and the series will be complete in April. Feedback from the information programme will be used in planning a public consultation programme prepared by July 2008.

A consultant is working on a project to complete the early preliminary design phase of the Motueka River Flood Control project. This project is targeted at areas where previous investigations raised a number of additional gaps in our data. It is important to the design process to know the range abilities of various mixes of local material to meet the seepage requirements of a renovated stopbank protection scheme. The size of a future stopbank system is being reviewed to accommodate the latest information on climate change and requests from parties interested in protection at higher flood flows than the current banks.

Both of these tasks are targeted for completion before the end of April 2008 to allow for input into the next LTCCP programme.

6 ROAD SAFETY COORDINATION

- **School travel planner**

This is a joint position between TDC and NCC and is expected to start in early February 2008 to work with two schools in each district. The project will look at how children, and families, are travelling to and from school and how we can encourage more to walk, cycle, car pool, or use public transport.

- **Bike Wise 2008** (23 February – 2 March 2008)

Mayoral Challenge family fun rides take place as follows:

Sat 23rd Feb - Motueka (led off by Tim King);

Sun 24th Feb – Richmond/Nelson at ASB Aquatic Centre (led off by Richard Kempthorne);

Sat 1st March – Takaka.

- **Go By Bike breakfast**

Wednesday 27 February 2008 – free breakfast snack in Murchison, Takaka, Motueka, Richmond and various locations in Nelson.

- **Feet First Walk to School Week**

Runs 3–7 March 2008, and every Wednesday until end of term

Walk to School Day – Wednesday 5 March

- **Safe with Age**

Next course – 19 and 20 February in Richmond.

7 TENDERS

Tenders awarded since the last meeting:

No	Contract name	No. of tenders received	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	TDC estimate	Budget for this item	Comment
713	Richmond Town Centre Development	2	Fulton Hogan	\$2,379,690	\$2,559,586	\$2,218,768	\$2,320,000	Contract also includes other subsidised roading works
715	Seal widening 2007/2008	4	Fulton Hogan	\$197,548	\$293,716	\$219,463	—	Part only of seal widening budget
716	Flood damage repairs Golden Bay	4	Fulton Hogan	\$119,101	\$136,894	\$158,798	—	Part only of flood damage repair work
722	Bridge Valley Road seal extension	6	Taylor's Contracting	\$239,615	\$322,410	\$257,505	\$240,000	

8 RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received.



Roger Ashworth
Transportation Manager