

# inTRANSIT

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## Consultation on Tolls project begins

Transit New Zealand has announced the start of consultation on the Toll Systems Project, a proposal that considers the integration of toll management systems for any future toll roads.

Funding new roads from tolling is provided for under the Land Transport Management Act 2003, an Act that also requires Transit to consult on aspects of its land transport programme.

Tolling will allow Transit to advance the start date of projects, boost the total value and quality of projects by complementary National Land Transport Fund revenues and initiate one of the many forms of travel demand management anticipated by the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

Consultation on the toll systems project will take place with key stakeholder groups ranging from Transfund, affected local authorities and ACC to land transport users and providers, Maori, and the public.

Consultation, which will run through to November, seeks stakeholders' views to refine the way toll management systems will operate.

Transit is proposing a free-flow electronic toll collection system that can be applied nationally as new toll roads are constructed. The proposal follows a feasibility study commissioned earlier this year that reviewed a number of toll management systems.

Transit CEO Rick Barneveld says it is important that New Zealand take a long-term approach to toll collection and processing.

"The feasibility study concluded that electronic toll collection

supported by an integrated toll management system would offer the most benefits to road users."

Initial work on developing the toll system has been completed as part of the first toll road proposal under the Act – the SH1 Northern Motorway extension (ALPURT B2) north of Auckland from the Orewa interchange to just south of Puhoi.

Separate toll systems for each toll road would be avoided if the system is adopted, says Mr van Barneveld, so road users would experience the same toll system wherever they are in the country. The system will also have the flexibility to incorporate any changes in tolling technology.

Implementation of the project could cost anywhere between \$15 million and \$60 million, depending on the number of toll projects included in the national system, the volume of toll transactions, and the final cost of the toll system. The capital costs of roadside infrastructure for individual projects would be funded separately from the toll revenue collected on those roads. **T**

**More information on the Toll Systems Project plus submission forms are available online at**

**[www.transit.govt.nz/national\\_tolls/](http://www.transit.govt.nz/national_tolls/)**

**or from Transit offices.**

**The submission period closes on  
18 October 2004**

## Transit partners receive top awards

Transit's partners in the Freeflow Alliance that delivered the Grafton Gully Project in Auckland were recently recognised by their peers for outstanding work on the project. Fletcher Construction Limited won the top prize in the Caltex Construction Awards, presented at the New Zealand Contractors' Federation conference in Hamilton for their work in Grafton Gully. Just days later, Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner received a gold award in the 2004 Innovate New Zealand Awards of Excellence presented by the Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand.

Transit New Zealand and Opus International Consultants were also recently honoured with the Austroads Bridge Award 2004 for the Candy's Bend to Starvation Point project. Austroads is

the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities. This project on State Highway 73 through the Arthur's Pass National Park improved the safety and efficiency of this link between Canterbury and the West Coast. The highway was widened to provide two lanes in each direction using a mixture of half bridge structure and rock cutting, and by providing overhead structures at critical locations to protect against rock fall and water-borne debris.

Transit chief executive Rick van Barneveld congratulated both teams on their success. "Transit is proud to be associated with these two organisations that are recognised as being at the top of their fields." **T**

# Changes at Transit

Transit New Zealand has re-organised its structure in light of changes in the government land transport sector.

“The focus of land transport in New Zealand has shifted dramatically in recent years, and Transit must meet different objectives within a different environment. Our new structure has been designed to better reflect and respond to the intent of the New Zealand Transport Strategy and the Land Transport Management Act 2003,” said Transit chief executive Rick van Barneveld.

Five new senior general managers will be appointed, with three of these positions advertised nationally and in Australia. In the interim acting general managers have been appointed to lead the change process. They are: Transport Planning, Wayne McDonald; Capital Projects, Colin Crampton; Network Operations, Graham Taylor; Corporate Services, Martin Fletcher; and Strategic Support, Pat Lakeman.

“As a consequence of implementing this new structure there will be a stronger focus on strategic alignment with people and groups we work with in the transport sector. As well, we are strengthening our key areas of transport planning, capital projects and network

operations. This new functionally focused structure will be introduced over time, both nationally and regionally, by the General Management Team,” Mr van Barneveld said.

“Throughout this change period Transit will be focusing on maintaining business as usual with our key business partners and stakeholders. We’ve made excellent progress on a number of important projects and issues this year, and we intend to keep that momentum going.”

## Sustainable Land Transport Conference 21-24 November 2004, Wellington, New Zealand

An international conference promoted by the New Zealand Road Controlling Authorities (RCA) Forum with the support of the Ministry of Transport, Local Government New Zealand, the Land Transport Safety Authority, Transit New Zealand, Transfund New Zealand and Greater Wellington Regional Council. For information and updates on the conference contact Lynette Walsh, Conference Co-ordinator, Email: [lynette@nzihf.co.nz](mailto:lynette@nzihf.co.nz)

# Getting closer to local authorities

Transit New Zealand and the Tasman District Council have entered into an agreement to manage the 1623 kilometres of local roads and 335 kilometres of state highways in the Tasman area. The organisations cemented their new relationship by awarding a \$4 million contract to maintain local roads and state highways in the Golden Bay area to Fulton Hogan Limited.

The contract covers 75 kilometres of state highways and 387 kilometres of local roads from the bottom of Takaka Hill through to Collingwood.

The two parties believed combining maintenance contracts will see the district’s roads being managed more efficiently and a better level of service provided for road users. Scheduling work and allocating resources would be easier, and all roading issues in the area would be dealt with consistently, Transit regional manager Brian Hasell said.

Transit has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Queenstown Lakes District Council to establish a closer working relationship on land transport issues in the Queenstown Lakes District. The agreement formalises the good working relationship that exists between the two organisations and enables the opportunity to work together on specific tasks. A particular issue to be discussed in the coming months would be the management of State Highway 6A.



*Transit chief executive Rick van Barneveld and Queenstown Lakes District Council Chief executive Duncan Field sign the memorandum for a good working relationship.*

Transit chief executive Rick van Barneveld said both the MoU and the joint partnership to manage roads in the Tasman area were examples of how central and local government can work towards an integrated, comprehensive approach to land transport management, as embodied by the Land Transport Management Act 2004.

# New weigh bridge and disposal station

North Canterbury road users should benefit from a new \$1.7 million joint weigh bridge and stock effluent station opened at Glasnevin, south of Waipara, early in August.

Transit New Zealand regional manager Robin Odams says the facility will provide rapid and safe processing of heavy vehicles plus a strategically placed disposal facility for stock effluent from stock trucks.

Top of the list on Transit's 10-year state highway plan last year, the station brings to 11 the number in the South Island either now operating or in the planning stage.

Mr Odams says that regular use of this network by stock vehicles would remove the nuisance and unpleasantness for road users who encounter stock effluent from trucks either on the road or dumped in roadside areas.

With more of these facilities opened, stock truck drivers will have few excuses for letting their stock waste fall onto roads, said Mr Odams.

"I am sure tourists as well as New Zealand road users will find their driving experience much

enhanced by these measures. Safety will be improved as stock waste can cause slippery surfaces, and can also have a corrosive effect on roads."

The Police will operate the new 'state of the art' weigh bridge at Glasnevin, where flood lighting has been installed for night-time operation. Up to 600 trucks can be inspected in a 24-hour period, compared to 160 on the old site.

Owners of stock trucks are being encouraged to install storage tanks on their trucks to collect the effluent while stock are being



*Waimakariri MP Clayton Cosgrove (above) about to cut the ribbon to officially open the weigh bridge and disposal station on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Pete Hodgson. This was the highest ranked project on Transit's 2003/04 10-year plan. Looking on are Regional Land Transport Committee chairperson, Judy Waters; Transit national highway manager (acting) Graham Taylor; Transit regional manager, Robin Odams; and, Inspector Ian James from the Office of the Commissioner of Police.*

transported. This effluent can then be emptied into large holding tanks like the 23,000-litre tanks at Glasnevin.

Hurunui District Council staff will regularly empty the Glasnevin tanks and dispose of the contents through the council's effluent disposal system.

Transit has recently completed two similar facilities at Tinwald and Hokitika, while sites are planned for Springfield, Jacksons, Murchison, Springs Junction, Kaikoura, Pareora (near Waimate) and Brighwater (near Nelson).

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## A first for surface friction

Reducing road accidents and ensuring safe conditions for landing aircraft are the twin aims of the inaugural Australasian conference on surface friction to be held in Christchurch in May 2005.

The four-day conference will be followed by two days of trials of skid resistance testing equipment on a variety of runways and road surfaces.

Conference organisers, Transit New Zealand and WDM (UK) Ltd, say the conference will be of interest to asset managers, safety engineers, surface friction experts and others who deal with highway and runway management and maintenance.

### **First Australasian International Surface Friction Conference – Roads and Runways**

**1-4 May, 2005, Christchurch.**

**See the conference website  
for more information:  
[www.surfacefriction.org.nz](http://www.surfacefriction.org.nz)**

## Waiouru realignment due to start in October

Construction works for the Hihitahi Bluffs Realignment on State Highway 1 south of Waiouru will begin in a matter of weeks.

HEB Contractors of Drury, south of Auckland, has been awarded the \$15.8 million contract and will begin work at the site in October. The first task will be to clear and establish the site, and major earthworks for the new alignment will get underway during the upcoming summer construction season, Transit Wanganui regional manager Errol Christiansen said.

The 3.5 kilometre project includes three new concrete bridges and a passing lane at the northern end.

"The significant improvement in safety this project will deliver is something that local residents and the travelling public alike can look

forward to. The road's high altitude and shadiness make it prone to ice in winter and recent slips have encroached into the shoulder of the road. The realignment will bring it in line with the rest of State Highway 1 between Wellington and Taupo.

"It's a difficult job in a challenging environment, and later during construction there may be times when traffic will have to be temporarily diverted around parts of the worksite, particularly while the bridges are under construction. But Transit and the contractors will do all they can to ensure traffic is managed efficiently and disruption is kept to a minimum, and will keep road users up to date at all times," Mr Christiansen said.

Mr Christiansen said more details would be available in about six weeks, once HEB had established a full construction programme. Liaison with landowners and directly affected parties will begin shortly. **T**

## Speed limit lowered

Transit has acted quickly to lower the speed limit on Centennial Highway north of Wellington, following an accident on 20 August that claimed four lives.

The speed limit has been reduced from 100km/h to 80km/h along the stretch of highway between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki.

Installation of a wire rope barrier to eliminate head-on crashes is also being looked at, says Transit regional asset manager Kevin Locke.

"A decision on the barrier option will be made my late September," Mr Locke said. "Erecting it is a major undertaking because the road may need to be widened and a new sea wall built." **T**

## What's on

For more information contact Transit training and education manager Stuart Fraser. Tel (04) 496 6698, email [stuart.fraser@transit.govt.nz](mailto:stuart.fraser@transit.govt.nz). The Transit website lists Transit, New Zealand and overseas industry conferences, seminars and workshops ([www.transit.govt.nz](http://www.transit.govt.nz)) in the 'News, Events and Publications' section.

### Training sessions

#### Training for Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management

**Level 2 and Level 3 STMS NP** (Non Practising) training, and STMS Practical Assessments are now underway. To register your interest call John Boyson Ph: 09 428 0018, Fax: 09 248 0018, Mob: 021 901 405.

**Auckland** STMS NP Refresher 1 day on 8 September 2004

STMS NP 2 days on 5 - 6 October 2004

STMS NP Refresher 1 day on 21 October 2004

STMS NP 2 days on 7 - 8 December 2004

STMS NP Refresher 1 day, 14 December 2004

**Hamilton** STMS NP 2 days 14 - 15 Sept 2004

STMS NP 2 days on 5 - 6 October 2004

STMS NP Refresher 1 day, 30 November 2004

**Christchurch** STMS NP 2 days on 23 - 24

November 2004, 25 November 2004

**Wellington** STMS NP Refresher 1 day on 1 December 2004

**Train the Trainers - Refresher Courses for Level 1 Roads** For current Level 1 trainers to conduct refresher training they must attend a trainers' refresher course where they will receive updated notes, PowerPoint's and revised tests.

#### Trainers' refresher courses

**Level 1 STMS Trainers Refresher** - (We can refresh the LI TC Trainers at this course):

**Wellington** 24 August 2004

**Taupo** 26 November 2004 -

**Level 1 - STMS Train the Trainer Course**

[Restricted entry, applicants must be qualified STMS]. A three-day course to train applicants to become Transit Trainers: 29 November - 1 December 2004 - Taupo

Contact Melissa Findlay for registration: 04 496 6617, [melissa.findlay@transit.govt.nz](mailto:melissa.findlay@transit.govt.nz)

### Coming Up

#### Towards Sustainable Land Transport - 21 - 24 November 2004

This is a major land transport to be held in Wellington. A registration form and trade and sponsorship information have been sent out. If you have not received it and would like a copy please contact Ian Clark, telephone: 04 496 6680 or Email: [ian.clark@transit.govt.nz](mailto:ian.clark@transit.govt.nz)

#### Road Safety Features Workshops

Transit will be assisted by Armorflex and CSP Pacific to conduct a series of workshops in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. Contrary to previous information this workshop will now be held over February and March 2005. The pilot workshops will be held 10 - 12 February 2005 and the first public workshop will be held in Auckland 17 - 19 February 2005. The purpose of these workshops is to upskill designers and installers of safety rail, rail terminals, and other road safety features. The workshop will consist of a mixture of theory and practical sessions. Consultants and contractors who carry out work for Transit should register their interest by contacting Melissa Findlay: 04 496 6617, [melissa.findlay@transit.govt.nz](mailto:melissa.findlay@transit.govt.nz)

#### A Transit and Roading New Zealand Workshop to Introduce The 2004 Austroads Pavement Design Manual

A new specification for in-situ stabilisation, and changes to Transit's B2 Specification for the Construction of Granular Layers.

This will be run in February - March 2005. It will be available in a number of centres and offered as a half-day introduction. Further details will be available in October 2004. **T**

### Auckland flags flying

Flags are flying high above the Auckland Harbour Bridge once again since Transit installed two new, specially strengthened flagpoles on the arches of the bridge.

The original flagpoles were removed five months ago when one broke and both were considered unsafe.

Transit's Auckland regional manager Wayne McDonald says his office has already received many calls from the public saying how happy they are to see the New Zealand flags flying again.

The new flagpoles are significantly stronger, with an internal steel spigot designed to enable them to withstand the strong winds which can reach more than 170km/h at the top of the bridge. **T**

### Board Meetings

The next board meeting is in Transit New Zealand national office at 9.30am on Wednesday 6 October 2004 (open agenda from 2.30pm).

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