

# intransit

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## Geoff Dangerfield to lead NZ Transport Agency



**Geoff Dangerfield has been appointed Chief Executive Designate of the New Zealand Transport Agency.**

The New Zealand Transport Agency is to be established on 1 July 2008 and will bring together the functions of Transit New Zealand and Land Transport New Zealand to provide an integrated approach to transport planning, funding and delivery.

Geoff has been Chief Executive of the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) since May 2001.

Under his leadership the MED has had an integrating influence in aligning both departments and Ministers in a unified economic development strategy for New Zealand.

Previously he was Deputy Secretary to the Treasury in charge of the Asset and Liability and Management Branch with responsibilities for the Crown's investments and interests in SOEs and Crown financial institutions, and New Zealand's foreign and domestic debt.

He joined Treasury in 1985, working on reforms to transform departmental trading activities into SOEs, and on primary sector and science policy.

From 1993 to 1995 Geoff worked in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as an advisor on economic and fiscal strategy and Treaty settlements.

Before joining Treasury he worked in the Ministry of Works and Development on assessing public sector resource investment and regional infrastructure projects. ❑

## Ohingaiti community celebrates start of safety project

**The community of Ohingaiti turned out in force to celebrate the start of construction of the State Highway 1 Ohingaiti to Makohine Realignment, which will make journeys on SH1 through the Central North Island safer and easier.**

Among them was 98-year-old longtime resident Mrs Phylis Florence, who had no difficulty in wielding a spade and turning a sod in honour of the occasion.

Minister of Transport Hon Annette King, Rangitikei Mayor Chalky Leary, and Transit General Manager Capital Projects Colin Crampton also turned the first sod at a ceremony in Ohingaiti that the local community turned up in their numbers to support.

The 3.6km realignment removes the steep, winding road on Makohine Hill that has seen a number of fatal and injury crashes, and replaces it with a straighter, safer route. The project also includes the construction of an overpass to replace a level crossing which was the scene of a double fatality last July, the construction of a three-span bridge over the Makohine stream, and a new passing lane.

Members of the Ohingaiti community, many of whom have attended the scenes of crashes on this stretch of road, have expressed their overwhelming support for the project, and most local residents took the time to attend the celebrations.

Transit regional manager Errol Christiansen thanked the Ohingaiti community for its fantastic support.

"We've brought this important safety



Minister of Transport Hon Annette King gives Mrs Phylis Florence, 98, a helping hand.

project forward as the region's top priority and we're really pleased to get started."

Ms King says the project is one of many projects underway that will improve safety in the region.

"The Government is committed to safer roads and safer communities, and this project ticks all the boxes."

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The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2011.

Rail safety advocate Chris Cairns, the founder of the Chris Cairns Foundation, also supports the project.

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"I am right behind anything that improves rail safety in New Zealand and would like to congratulate all involved with this project at Ohingaiti. I will pass through Ohingaiti when I undertake my walk from Auckland to Rolleston in August in memory of my sister Louise and look forward to seeing the start of improvements then." ❑

# Bridge replacement recognises history, communities

**For more than 120 years the grand, single lane road-rail Arahura Bridge has provided West Coasters with the only rail and road access over the Arahura River.**

About 3,500 vehicles use the bridge every day, crossing New Zealand's only privately owned river, which has significance for Maori for its pounamu (greenstone).

The bridge replacement will undertaken with a sensitive awareness of the nature of the bridge, the river and the communities bound by them. A landscaped heritage park is to be created on the eastern side of the northern approach to the new bridge.

The park recognises the status of the existing bridge as a Category 1 historic place by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.



ONTRACK and Transit are working together on the project, which is expected to begin in April this year. 📌

## The sealing season

**October to March is the sealing season in New Zealand.**

**Which has nothing to do with cuddly marine mammals with big, brown eyes. It's about resurfacing roads which need it.**

**Road users on the state highway network around the country will have noticed a lot of sealing work over the six months, because more than 1300 kilometres were given the treatment to mid-March.**

The resurfacing is a key part of Transit's maintenance programme to keep water out of the pavement and to ensure the road remains safe by reinstating the surface texture and skid resistance. About 30 percent of Transit's total expenditure is spent on maintenance of the state highway network. The climate for this type of work is best from October to mid-March.

Transit network operations manager Dave Bates says Transit uses different surfaces on its state highways.

"We use asphalt surfaces, which cost significantly more, in those parts of the network subject to high traffic volumes, such as the motorways and expressways,

where the benefits in terms of durability clearly justify the extra cost.

"On the majority of the network we use a chip seal surface, which generally provides superior skid resistance and more flexibility; an important consideration in many parts of New Zealand where the road base can be subject to movement and settling.

"Works are planned to minimize travel delay. Unfortunately we are not often able to lay chip seal surfaces at night because of health and safety issues around working with hot bitumen in the dark. Further, the quality and life of the seal is very temperature dependent and night work makes it more difficult to get things right.

Dave wishes to thank the public for their patience over this period.

"We know this work does create hold-ups for travellers, but it is necessary to ensure our state highways remain in optimal condition for many years to come." 📌



## Kids picture Cape Reinga

**Bumpy drives and dust coated windscreens are on their way to becoming a distant memory as the sealing, widening and improving of State Highway 1 Cape Reinga to Waitiki Landing moves forward.**

Since work started last September, the first 6.5km of the 19km to complete has been widened, levelled and strengthened with chip seal being laid this month.

Despite the bad weather the work is still on schedule.

Children from far north schools entered a joint Transit and Department of Conservation (DOC) competition.

Auckland regional manager Peter Spies says "The competition was a great success. It involved local children in the project in an informative, fun and interactive way."

Winning students will be given a native plant to look after which they will plant at Cape Reinga as part of the revegetation process in a special planting ceremony in June. 📌

## SH1 Avalon Drive Bypass on track

**The State Highway 1 Avalon Drive Bypass project in Hamilton is another step closer to completion.**

Piling for the new Norton Road rail bridge was completed early April and work is now underway to construct the bridge abutments. The bridge deck is programmed to be cast in place in June.

Transit regional manager Kaye Clark says that Transit and ONTRACK are working closely together to enable the construction of the rail bridge and that ONTRACK stuck to a tight schedule to shift the North Island main trunk railway line.

“ONTRACK is to be commended for completing what has been a complex operation- constructing track diversions, switching electrification gantries across and re-routing signalling cables whilst maintaining one of the busiest stretches of rail to allow the construction of the Norton Road rail bridge to begin on time,” Mrs Clark said.

ONTRACK constructed two temporary rail tracks to the east of the former level



Large cranes and piling rigs were used to install 22 hollow steel piles, which were then driven to a depth of approximately 20 metres over a six-week period to support the new rail bridge. This photo, taken midway through the piling process in March, shows Norton Road at left, the two diverted North Island Main Trunk rail tracks, and the new rail bridge being built where the former level crossing used to be.

crossing in January. More than 300 trains are using the temporary tracks each week, and will continue to do so until the tracks are shifted onto the new rail bridge in August.

Once the North Island Main Trunk railway line is running over the new bridge,

excavation will begin to lower Norton Road, so it can pass under the rail bridge and connect to the new Norton Road Roundabout, which is under construction.

Norton Road is expected to be connected to the Norton Road Roundabout by the end of September. ☑

## Construction begins on Manukau Harbour Crossing

**Transport Minister Hon Annette King turned the first sod in a ceremony marking the beginning of construction of Transit New Zealand’s State Highway 20 Manukau Harbour Crossing, one of the biggest and most strategic transport projects in the Auckland region.**

Associate Minister of Transport Hon Judith Tizard joined in the ceremony together with Manukau City Councillor Alf Filipaina and Transit Board member James Hill. Also present to celebrate the start of improved access on the (SH20) Southwestern Motorway between Auckland and Manukau cities, were local iwi representatives of Puukaki Te Aakitai who blessed the project.

The project will see a new duplicate four-lane motorway bridge constructed over the Manukau Harbour between Onehunga and Mangere Bridge, alongside the original bridge built in 1983. Together, the new and existing bridges



Left to right: Manukau City Councillor Alf Filipaina, Transit Board member James Hill, Assoc Minister of Transport Hon Judith Tizard, Minister of Transport Hon Annette King;

will each feature four lanes and bus shoulder lanes north towards Onehunga and south towards Mangere. As part of the upgrade, SH20 will be widened to six lanes and bus shoulder lanes between Queenstown Road and Walmsley Road. ☑

## Austrads members visit Northern Gateway Toll Road project



Transit treated members of the Austrads Council to a rare view of a special work in progress - the Northern Gateway Toll Road. The photo, taken by international and business services manager Douceline VanArts, shows a pier segment being placed by a truss onto the Waiwera Viaduct.

# Surf lifesavers take to the mountains

**It may seem an unlikely partnership, but New Zealand Surf Lifesaving rep Johanna O'Connor, from the Bay of Plenty, has joined forces with road safety agencies.**

She is putting herself behind a campaign to keep motorists safe on State Highway 29 over the Kaimais.

The campaign is a joint Transit New Zealand, ACC, Environment BOP and Land Transport New Zealand project, and is expected to run for up to five years.

The campaign aims to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes on the Kaimais by 10 percent by June next year through raising awareness of factors which could contribute to a crash.

"Like all lifesavers I spend my time helping to make our beaches safer places for everyone. We constantly monitor conditions and keep a lookout for



potentially dangerous situations to cut your risks to a minimum. But for many people, just getting to the coast is the most hazardous part of a day at the beach." ☑

## inbrief

### Tight curves to go

Transit New Zealand recently marked the start of construction of a project that will make a tricky stretch of State Highway 1 in the South Waikato safer.

Local MP Hon Mark Burton, with South Waikato District Council Mayor Neil Sinclair and Transit New Zealand Chairman Bryan Jackson, turned the first sod on the SH1 Piarere to Oak Tree Bends Realignment.

The project, which stretches over four kilometres, will remove 14 tight curves. This area has a history of crashes, and the tight curves are out of context with speed and conditions motorists are used to on SH1 either side of the project. ☑

### Focus on pedestrian, cyclist safety

On the West Coast of the South Island Transit is working with local councils to develop a regional strategy for walking and cycling. The strategy will enable councils to develop further action plans and take advantage of Transit's expertise to create integrated projects that will benefit all road users

Work on the strategy is getting underway in April. This will start with extensive stakeholder consultation and later Transit will ask for public feedback. ☑

### Upgrade for critical portions

Two critical portions of Christchurch's Western Corridor are about to be upgraded.

Plans to four-lane two sections of State Highway 1 between Memorial Avenue and Yaldhurst Road and Sawyers Arms Road to Memorial Avenue in Christchurch head into design phase this year. ☑

### New surface on Northern Motorway

Transit New Zealand will be resurfacing the Northern Motorway (State Highway 1) between Oteha Valley Road and Silverdale from 9pm Sunday 20 April until noon Monday 5 May.

Temporary delays are likely during peak times as one lane will be closed for resurfacing. The work will take place in one direction at a time and all other lanes will remain open.

### Board meeting

The next Transit Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7 2008. The open agenda is from 2.30 pm. ☑

## What's on

- › **Level 2/3 STMS Training Courses** – all two days: Auckland 12-13 May, 17-18 June. Hamilton: 30 June – 1 July. Tauranga: 5-6 May. Christchurch 19-20 June. All two days. Contact John Boyson 09 428 0018 or 021 207 3954
- › **Road Safety Barrier Systems Workshop – 26-28 May 2008, Auckland.** Contact Stuart Fraser (04) 496 6698 or [stuart.fraser@transit.govt.nz](mailto:stuart.fraser@transit.govt.nz). Registration forms [www.transit.govt.nz](http://www.transit.govt.nz).
- › **Recycling and Stabilisation Conference – Better Roads for a Sustainable Environment 22-24 June 2008, Takapuna.** More information at [www.nziht.co.nz](http://www.nziht.co.nz).
- › **ARRB 1st International Sprayed Sealing Conference.** 27-29 July 2008, Adelaide, South Australia. For more information see the conference pages of the ARRB website.
- › **18th Road Safety Engineering Workshop, Takapuna, North Shore City 25-29 August 2008.** Contact Stuart Fraser (see details above).
- › **Roading NZ Conference 26 August 2008, Wellington.** More information at [www.nziht.co.nz](http://www.nziht.co.nz).
- › **9th Annual Transit New Zealand & NZIHT Conference – Improving the Road Network, Managing Traffic, Pavements, Safety and Contracts, 12-14 October 2008, Napier.** To register interest or request call for paper, contact [robyn@nziht.co.nz](mailto:robyn@nziht.co.nz) or view on website [www.nziht.co.nz](http://www.nziht.co.nz).

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