

Subject: **Roading Projects Activity Report to 30 April 2010**

Prepared By: Mark Joblin (Transport Projects Engineer)

Meeting Date: 13 May 2010

Report to OPERATIONS Committee for noting

SUMMARY

The remaining Northland and Tairāwhiti Regional Development projects have been reviewed and a new priority rating and budget allocation for the remainder of the project has been recommended.

The majority of the 2009/10 work programme is has been completed and survey and design work is now underway on the 2010/11 regional development projects.

The Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Amendment comes into force on 1 May 2010, which will allow heavier trucks to operate under permit on specific routes in the Gisborne District subject to approval by the Gisborne District Council and NZ Transport Agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee

- 1. receives the report.**

Mark Joblin
Roading Transportation Engineer

Peter Higgs
Engineering and Works Manager

1. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROADING

A meeting of the Regional Development Governance Board was held in Whangarei in February to monitor the progress to date and to discuss the future work programme. Several district councils had made requests for alterations to the programme including putting forward new projects for consideration. As a result it was agreed to review the priority ratings and expected costs of the outstanding projects. GHD Ltd were contracted to undertake the review as they were involved in the original RDR review. The report produced by GHD (Appendix 1) recommended a priority ranking and fund allocation for the projects due to be completed in 2010/11, the final year of Regional Development funding.

All the GDC projects received a priority rating of 4 or lower. The report indicated that there is sufficient funding remaining to complete all the projects with a priority ranking of 4.8 or less, meaning all the GDC projects will be funded. An additional \$100,000 was allocated to Waipaoa Bridge to allow for beam replacement and to raise the height of the bridge following the January 2010 flood event. The funding allocation for Hokoroa Road was also increased from \$700,000 to \$740,000. However, it is believed that this is still insufficient to complete the work required and additional funding is still being pursued. The funding allocation for the remaining GDC projects remained unchanged.

1.1 Summary of Current GDC Projects

Waimata/Hokoroa Road

Budget: \$100,000

This project involves an 800 m extension to the sections of Waimata/Hokoroa Road which had been previously upgraded under the Regional Development Programme. Three quotes were received for the earthworks component and the work was awarded to Earthworks Solutions Limited for the sum of \$38,225.42. It is planned to undertake the pavement work in the 2010/2011 as part of the Hokoroa upgrade to save costs.

Waipaoa Bridge Upgrade - \$500,000

Budget: \$600,000

Work is underway to produce a design/build contract document and it is planned to advertise the contract this financial year.

Keelan Road/Tuakau Road

Budget: \$730,000

Due to the close proximity of Keelan and Tuakau Roads, the upgrade of both roads will be let as one contract as this will reduce administration costs. A resource consent for the earth works component has been granted but as a condition of the consent willow pole planting is required on the hill section. GDC is currently seeking landowner permission to plant the poles. Once this has been granted the contract will be advertised.

Upper Mata Road, Upper Tauwhareparae Road, Tutamoe Road and Tuahu Road

Budget: \$1,145,000

It is proposed to tender these four projects as one contract to save administration and establishment costs. The survey and design is currently underway and it is planned to advertise the contract early in July.

Tarewa Road and Maraetaha Intersection

Budget: \$750,000

It is also proposed to tender these two projects as one contract to save administration and establishment costs. The survey and design is currently underway and it is planned to advertise the contract late in July.

2. THE LAND TRANSPORT RULE: VEHICLE DIMENSIONS AND MASS AMENDMENT 2010

The Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Amendment comes into force on 1 May 2010. The main change under the amendment is the creation of a new class of vehicle called high productivity vehicles (HPMVs). Under the new rules HPMVs will be able to apply for permits to carry loads over 44 tonnes on specified routes.

GDC is currently investigating which routes will be suitable to carry HPMVs. The investigation involves checking whether the bridges on the proposed routes can take the load of a HPMV vehicle. The Eastland Wood Council has put forward a HMPV vehicle configuration (53 tonnes gross weight) and this configuration is being used to assess the routes. Several routes have been checked already (Appendix 2) and the remainder of the routes will be completed once all the bridge data has been entered in the TOP's system (a computer based permit checking system operated by LTNZ).

NZTA is also undertaking an assessment of key state highways to carry the new HMPVs. Due to limited resources NZTA is phasing in the assessment through nine regional projects. The highways in the Taupo-Tauranga-Whakatane-East Coast region are currently ranked second in the order of assessment. As any HMPV routes are likely to involve a combination of local roads and state highway, it is unlikely that HMPVs will be approved in the district until the state highway and GDC assessments have been completed.