

## Driver Advisory Signs for Parking Availability

### 1. The Proposal

It is proposed that driver advisory signs indicating the availability of vacant parking spaces be introduced prior to the expected large numbers of visitors arriving for the Rugby World Cup in September 2011. The purpose of the signs would be to provide people looking for casual parking with the most direct route to a vacant parking space, thereby minimising any congestion within the CBD caused by people driving around looking for short-term parking. The key benefit would be a more effective transport network.

### 2. Proposal Costs

Project Component	Capital expenses	Capital expenses
	\$000	\$000
	FY 09/10	FY 10/11
Construction	50	300
Total	50	300

Project costs per year										
Project Component	Expenses									
	\$000									
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Depreciation		5	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Operational costs		15	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Interest	2	13	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Total	2	33	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83

### 3. Discussion

This proposal is directly consistent with the Council's current policy. Part 5(b) of the Council's 2007 Parking Policy states:

*Users of the parking system should be provided with real time information on parking availability, especially for the off-street parking buildings.*

For the signs to be operational by the time of the Rugby World Cup 2011, design and consent application/approval costs will need to be incurred during the current financial year in order for the construction to commence as soon as possible during the 2010/11 financial year.

There would be a number of associated operational costs, including electricity consumption, communications costs and maintenance.

There are a number of potential funding options that have yet to be further developed:

- Some of the key routes into and out of Wellington are State Highways. It would be beneficial for some of the signs to be placed along these routes (e.g. prior to Urban Motorway off-ramps and Mt Victoria Tunnel). Therefore the New Zealand Transport Agency will need to be involved in this project and may also be able to provide a subsidy if the State Highway Network is likely to benefit from this initiative.
- Preliminary meetings have already been held with major parking garage owners in Wellington City. They are very supportive of the proposal, which effectively guides customers to their premises and makes their operations more effective. They may also be willing to contribute towards costs.
- The system already installed in Auckland has spare capacity to be expanded to include more parking garages and signs. Because all of the components of the system communicate via the Vodafone network, it does not matter where in the country the control system is located. The Wellington system could therefore be co-hosted on the existing Auckland controller, which would not just reduce the establishment time but would also allow the two respective Local Authorities to share a substantial component of the investment cost.

#### **4. Recommendation**

It is recommended that funding be allocated for the installation advisory signs, noting that detailed funding options will be progressed in the coming months.