

Project title: State Highway Investment
Strategy area: Transport

1. The Proposal

To provide advocacy with TAs, Greater Wellington Regional Council and central government agencies for State Highway investments that benefit Wellington City by improving the regional transport network.

2. Strategic Fit

This priority explicitly contributes to the following Council strategic outcomes:

Outcome 1: More Liveable – by facilitating an integrated transport system that functions effectively for people and freight.

Outcome 7: Better Connected – by enhancing the State Highway system from the north to the airport for freight, service vehicles and high occupancy vehicles.

Outcome 8: More Sustainable – by improving traffic flow (and reducing emissions) through improving bottlenecks.

The priority also contributes to the urban development, economic and social development strategy outcomes. It has been selected as number 2 priority in the Council’s Transport Strategy and number 9 overall.

3. Relationship to Existing Activities

This role is already being carried out by the Strategy Unit.

4. Proposal Costs

<i>Outline project costs per year</i>										
Project Component	Operating expenses									
	\$000									
	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
<i>Consulting fees</i>		50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>		50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The proposed Petone-Grenada road link has a number of potential benefits to Wellington City including opening up the land around Lincolnshire Farm for development. The Council may therefore wish to take a lead in its design. If this were the case, a contribution of approximately \$1.5 m in the 2006 – 2008 years may be required (not included in budget above).

No additional salary costs are anticipated at this stage. Advocacy and advice will be provided by Strategy within existing staff salaries.

Because the timing and content of State Highway investigations is driven by other agencies, it is impossible to develop an accurate budget. In the 2005-2006 year, \$50,000 is to be spent as the Council's contribution to the Ngauranga to Airport Strategic Study. This amount has been taken as an indicative annual amount for the 06/07 year. The need to budget further amounts in subsequent years will be evaluated after that time.

5. Project Outline

Over the 2004-2005 year, there has been a two to threefold increase in central government funding for State Highway investment in the region over the next 10 years. It is important that the interests of the City are represented rigorously in the decision-making process for the investment of these funds.

This project will require the Strategy Unit to build and maintain the staff capability to undertake the following activities:

- Support the Transport Portfolio Spokesperson in representing the Council on the Regional Land Transport Committee;
- Participate at officer level in regional decision making forums including the annual Regional Transport Investment Prioritisation exercise;
- Participate at officer level in regional transport projects such as modal and corridor studies (for the 06/07 year, officers will have a heavy involvement in the Ngauranga to Airport Strategic Study) ;
- Participate at officer level in government working parties.

The proposed additional consulting budget will provide critical resources to enable officers to support the advocacy role by ensuring that where necessary, it can obtain independent analyses of projects or make contributions to projects which give a measure of control. The potential benefits from this project will be to ensure that regional State Highway investment decisions benefit the city over the next 10 - 20 years.

The risk of choosing not to participate in these activities is that Council views will not be adequately taken into account in regional State Highway funding decisions.

6. Conclusion

Vigorous participation in regional decision making processes for State Highway investment is essential to ensure outcomes which are of benefit to Wellington City. It is recommended that the proposed project should proceed.