

## Newsletter Three: July 2006



### Background

Transit New Zealand (Transit) has engaged Opus International Consultants Ltd to complete the final design work for upgrading the Hawke's Bay Expressway/Meeanee Road intersection, and to manage the project through the construction phase. This work follows on from the investigation and option selection phase completed in 2004.

The final design work for the intersection upgrade has been completed and all administrative matters addressed. The interchange concept involves an overbridge to carry expressway traffic over Meeanee Road, with an hourglass configuration roundabout beneath to slow traffic along Meeanee Road and provide access onto and off the northern and southern legs of the expressway. Pedestrian and cycle access has been incorporated into the design.

NCC partnering with Transit agreed to 120,000m<sup>3</sup> of material excavated from the first stage of their Cross Country Drain construction being used for fill at the Meeanee Road Interchange embankments to achieve benefits for the community at large.

### Construction Phase

Due to unforeseen delays the first stage earthworks construction contract was not awarded to Higgins Contractors Ltd until December 2005. The physical works proceeded well until late April

when the wet weather arrived and it has since been agreed to defer further earthworks until more favorable road building conditions are expected in September 2006. In the meantime other non-critical path works such as fencing and tree felling will continue. Transit New Zealand wishes to thank the public for their consideration and patience through this construction phase.

To ensure the overall project timeline is not unduly affected Transit now proposes to advance the overbridge construction so that it is constructed concurrently with completion of the first stage earthworks contract. This work is planned to minimize impacts on road users and adjacent property owners. While this work is underway power, communication and water service utility installation and modification work will be undertaken. During this time Transit will also initiate the first stage of its landscape planting to ensure screen planting is established before the interchange becomes fully operational.

A final road construction contract is planned to be underway early in 2007 to complete the expressway bridge approaches and the interchange on and off ramps, including signage and lighting.

Interchange construction is expected to be complete late 2007.

## Motif Design

During the final Open Day in September 2004 public participation and voting for bridge panel motif designs was undertaken.

Transit New Zealand thanks the community for their inputs to the motif design on the overbridge concrete panels.

The inputs from Taradale High School students and the Taradale and District's Community Association are particularly appreciated. Transit has decided to adopt the sunburst motif (refer to the photograph overleaf). This option received overwhelming support from the public vote.

This motif design will be repeated along the length of the panels and on both sides of the bridge. Transit expects the motif design will improve the aesthetics of the bridge, and will reflect the environment in which we live.

## Contacts

If you would like to discuss any of the matters outlined in the newsletter, please contact:

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