



greater WELLINGTON
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wairarapa Corridor Plan

Masterton to Upper Hutt

December 2003

Wairarapa Corridor

This corridor follows the current state highway 2 from Upper Hutt over the Kaitoke and Rimutaka Hills through to Masterton.

Identified needs and issues

- Increase in traffic volumes due to increase in rateable properties
- Low population growth in the Wairarapa which inhibits local economic growth and suggests access to the Wairarapa may be an issue
- The importance of continued access to employment in Wellington CBD and the Hutt Valley by Wairarapa residents
- Substandard bridge widths on SH2 and SH53
- A significant growth in forestry and timber products expected over the next 20 years
- Increase in the demand for freight transport to the Port
- Growth in tourism
- Increases in recreation and shopping journeys
- The impact of heavy traffic on townships adjacent to SH2
- Limited passenger rail frequency for commuters, tourism and recreation.
- Passenger transport services internal to the Wairarapa do not meet the needs of the wider community
- Inadequate passing opportunities on SH2 between Masterton and Kaitoke
- Limited affordable options to increase the Rimutaka Hill Road capacity.

These needs and issues were used in the analysis process to identify the following short and long term proposals.

Projects to 2008

Roading

- Construct improvements on the Kaitoke Hill Road (\$10 million)
- Complete the long term design for a target 70 kph standard strategy for the Rimutaka Hill Road, recognising that a lower standard will apply to some difficult terrain sections. Obtain consents and develop detailed designs so projects are ready to go should funding become available.
- Complete design and construction of the “Muldoons Corner” section of the Rimutaka Hill Road
- Maintain continuous improvements on the Rimutaka Hill Road to meet the underlying growth in traffic excluding the demands of forestry and timber products
- Develop passing lanes on the Featherston-Masterton Road and bring all bridge structures up to required standards, including the early replacement of the Waiohine River bridge
- Investigate the need for heavy traffic bypasses of the townships on SH2 from Masterton to Featherston
- Extend the seal on rural local roads of special tourist or forestry significance where cost effective.

Rail freight

- Protect and develop rail infrastructure, wagons and facilities for freight and forestry links between Masterton and Wellington by partnerships between commercial interests and service providers
- Investigate, and if feasible develop a log transfer and storage site at Waingawa as a commercial partnership.

Public transport

- Continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of passenger rail services on the Upper Hutt-Masterton route to meet the needs of commuters, tourists and those engaging in recreation, including the refurbishment or replacement of all substandard passenger carriages
- Undertake a comprehensive review of passenger transport services within the Wairarapa including the needs of specific groups within society such as the disabled and the transport disadvantaged.

Projects for Beyond 2008

- Continue to develop the Rimutaka Hill Road to 70 kph standards
- Develop additional passing lanes on the Featherston-Masterton Road

- Extend the seal on rural local roads of special tourist or forestry significance where cost effective
- Widen the bridges on Ruamahanga River and Tauherenikau River on SH53
- Investigate, and if feasible, develop a log transfer and storage site near Featherston
- Upgrade railway stations on the corridor
- Continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of passenger rail services on the Upper Hutt-Masterton route particularly to meet the needs of commuters, tourists and those engaging in recreation
- Provide connecting bus services as required.