

Significant funding approved for Access Hamilton Wairere Drive extension project

12 FEBRUARY 2007

Funding for one of Access Hamilton's major projects, Wairere Drive extension, has been approved by the Land Transport New Zealand Board. The funding assistance, 55% of \$15.3m, is the largest the city has received for any project to date.

The funding recognises the importance of completing the city's ring road and the special transportation issues facing Hamilton.

Through Access Hamilton, Council is delivering a better transport environment for the city, helping it to be more attractive and vibrant and improving the quality of life in Hamilton.

This new road extension will become part of the Access Hamilton ring road infrastructure providing an efficient and effective means for people to move around the whole city.

This Wairere Drive extension project includes the section of road from Hukanui Road roundabout to Tramway Road. This section will form part of the greater Wairere Drive corridor, which will eventually stretch from Te Rapa Road (SH1) in the west to Cobham Drive (SH1) in the south.

The total project value is approximately \$22.0m, of which \$15.3m (for the road and walking/cycling elements) qualifies for Land Transport NZ subsidy at a rate of 55%. The non-subsidisable elements of the project include a new watermain and the extension of the Far Eastern Wastewater Interceptor which connects to the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Pukete.

The section of Wairere Drive between Hukanui Road and Tramway Road was designated for a city arterial road in the 1990s. Since that time there has been extensive public consultation, public open days and detailed planning. Funding is the last significant component for the project and staff are now in the process of completing the detailed design.

The extension project will include the same high quality features already established along the western end of Wairere Drive, including noise mitigation, landscaping, and a shared off-road pedestrian/cycle path.

The detailed design and planning are currently being finalised, and a construction contract will be put out to tender later in the year, with an expected start date in the early summer 2007/08 period. Council will continue to communicate with you in a timely manner as dates and milestones are confirmed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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