

Draft Corridor Plan

Wairarapa Corridor: Masterton to Upper Hutt

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 design* 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.*
- ~~Provide connecting bus services as required.~~

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.
- ~~• Construct railway stations at Timberlea and Cruickshank Road.~~
- 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.

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