

Minutes of Southern Links Waipa District Community Liaison Group Meeting, 28 November 2017

Venue: Hamilton Airport Hotel

Hosts: Barry Dowsett (NZTA), Simon Brandon (NZTA), Adrian Bathgate (NZTA), Nathanael Savage (HCC), Alastair Black (Gray Matter), Lyndsey Smith (AECOM)

Number of attendees: 42

Meeting opened: 5.06pm

Introductory remarks: Simon Brandon (NZTA)

Presentation delivered by: Barry Dowsett (NZTA) and Lyndsey Smith (AECOM)

Hamilton Southern Links

Community Liaison Group Meeting, November 2017



Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Project background
- Project programming
- Achievements to date
- Property
- Update on ecological surveys
- What are we planning next
- Questions

Project programming

- Both partners are programming funding together, but have different drivers and constraints.
- Hamilton City Council is driven by City growth and need for Housing in Peacocke's growth cell, but funding is very constrained. HCC is currently considering its programming as part of the 10 Year Plan review process.
- NZ Transport Agency funding comes from the National Land Transport Fund – derived primarily from fuel taxes, road user charges and limits are set by Government in a Policy Statement. This is being developed currently and will be published as a draft in late December 2017.
- The Transport Agency has published a draft 'State Highway Investment Proposal' and this includes design in 2018 and potentially construction starting in 2021 for Southern Links – this is being reviewed by the Waikato Regional Transport Committee for the 2018 Regional Land Transport Plan – to be consulted on in early next year.

Achievements to date

- Appointed Communications, Consultation and Property Liaison Managers
- Provided Councils with;
 - Pre-Construction, Communications & Consultation Plan
 - Property Acquisition and Management Engagement Practice
- Completed initial ecological monitoring and surveys
 - Vegetation and habitat surveys
 - In-stream aquatic surveys
 - Bat monitoring
- Initial stakeholder engagement, e.g. DoC and Tangata Whenua
- Property purchase ongoing, as required
- Worked collaboratively with Hamilton CC on Peacocke's Housing Infrastructure Funding bid – utilises Southern Links designations.

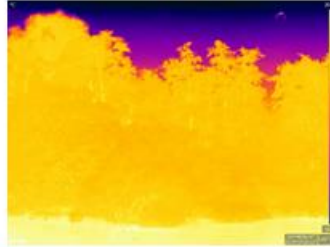
Property

- NZTA and HCC acquiring property as required.
- The Designation conditions require that *"we provide clarity for directly affected landowners on how they can engage with the NZ Transport Agency (as Requiring Authority) on matters regarding property acquisition and management"*.
- This is documented in the 'Property Acquisition and Management Engagement Practice' (PAMEP) – *available on the project website*
- Over the last 3 years, the NZ Transport Agency has acquired 37 properties (out of 85 required) – about 44%. By the end of the current 2017/18 financial year, we expect this to be close to 50%.

2017 Ecological Surveys

Focussed within HCC

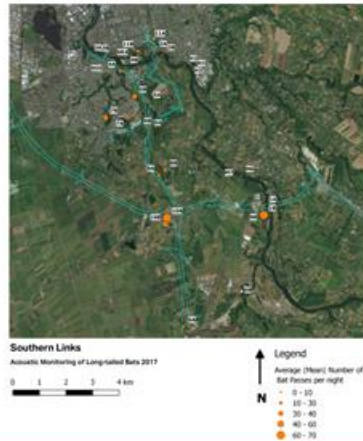
- Bat monitoring
 - Acoustic monitoring – detect bat activity
 - Thermal imaging of bats
 - Determine behaviour
 - Detect crossing height
- Aquatic monitoring
 - Fish surveys
 - Water quality assessment
- Vegetation and habitat surveys



2017 Ecological Survey Results

Southern Links

- Bats were recorded at all monitoring sites.
- Bat activity was variable at each of the sites.
- Bats were recorded travelling above tree canopy height and within the Waikato River gully by the thermal imaging cameras.
- Data from the aquatic surveys is still being processed.



Planned Activities

Focus on ecology and archaeology

- In 2017/18 the focus is on:
 - Bat monitoring
 - Survey of birds (avifauna)
 - Survey of reptiles
- On-going stakeholder engagement
- Identify potential sites for ecological enhancement and restoration
- Develop Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)



Further Information

- Newsletters with updates of key activity
- Annual community liaison group meetings
- www.nzta.govt.nz/southern-links
- Communications, Consultation and Property Liaison Manager
 - NZTA: Simon Brandon, southernlinks@nzta.govt.nz

Thank you

Any questions?



Question and Answer session (all answers provided by NZTA unless indicated):

- *If NZTA will be ready to build in 2021 what will happen if HCC is not ready?*
 - HCC is working on Southern Links related projects such as Dixon/Ohaupo intersection and Cobham/Wairere intersection
 - HCC is currently reviewing its 10 year plan which includes the timing for the HCC components of Southern Links
 - A number of key decisions have not yet been made in regard to Southern Links. As soon as we have more information we will share this with the community
- *If HCC does not meet this timeframe will NZTA build Southern Links?*
 - There are some issues with the SH network in the adjacent area so this may be explored further
 - Any decision will take into account the timing outlined in the HCC 10 year plan
- *Where would NZTA start construction on Southern Links?*
 - Construction would likely start in many places along the designation
 - NZTA would be unlikely to build only one part of Southern Links
- *Will property acquisition be complete before construction?*
 - It's likely most properties will be acquired prior to construction starting but its possible there may be some outstanding, as has happened with other projects such as the Waikato Expressway
- *When is a likely date that we know when the road will be built?*
 - It's possible we may know more in March/April 2018
 - As soon as we have more information we will share this with the community
- *When will the Dixon Rd roundabout start?*
 - HCC: It is currently scheduled for 2021/22, however this may be revisited through the 10 year plan review process.
 - HCC: Currently doing detailed design and consenting work
- *If Bats are flying at treetop height how does this affect the proposed bridge over the Waikato river*
 - AECOM: As the riverbanks are at two different heights its possible the bridge height and location may affect the bats flight path. This is something that will be better understood through more bat surveys
- *When will the Southern Links designation lapse?*
 - The project sought and was granted a 20 year lapse period. mportant to realise that this includes an estimated 5 year construction period
 - The consents with relevant local authorities will lapse in 2036
- *When the Hamilton Section of the Waikato Expressway is complete SH21 will become even busier, what are the plans for this road?*

- No detailed plans as yet, will work with stakeholders to address issues of pressure on SH network after the Hamilton Section opens. This includes the likes of developers such as Titanium Park
- We have some idea of how we will respond however we need to be fluid
- We will continue to address issues such as pavement quality on local SHs over the next few years
- *Are you aware of the increasing use of Raynes Rd as a 'rat run'?*
 - We are aware of this and short term improvements have been made at the SH3 end. We are considering a range of options
- *There is also pressure on SH3 in Hamilton City.*
 - The Regional Transport Committee is looking at options for short term improvements in the wider Kahikatea Drive/Greenwood St/Ohaupo Rd area that could be included in the Regional Land Transport Plan
- *What about the issue and danger of making a right turn into Kahikatea Drive?*
 - The RTC is considering this also. It's possible the roundabout planned as part of Southern Links may be brought forward to address this
 - Measures to reduce congestion and wait times at this roundabout will be considered as part of this
- *Has a decision been made about upgrading SH3 from Glenview to Ohaupo?*
 - No decision has been made yet. We are aware that this corridor is under pressure and more information is available on the website for that project
www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh3-hamilton-to-ohaupo/
- *Will the Government Policy Statement (GPS) on transport indicate the government's attitude to development?*
 - The GPS is more of a positioning statement indicating the government's policy goals and giving a broad indication on where funding will be allocated
- *Can we get access to the presentation and question and answers?*
 - Yes, these will be posted on the website, www.nzta.govt.nz/southernlinks

Closing comments and thanks: Barry Dowsett.

Meeting closed: 6.07pm