



## **Roads of National Significance Policy Announcement**

### **– Questions & Answers –**

#### **Why have you committed to more Roads of National Significance?**

As far back as 2009 the National-led Government has stated that as the Roads of National Significance projects were completed, new projects could come on where improvements and safety upgrades are required to improve reliability, safety and economic growth.

That's exactly what these projects do. They will:

- Deliver safer and more reliable journeys on our State Highways
- Reduce congestion and travel times
- Provide better access to employment opportunities and better access to centres contributing to economic growth (i.e. tourist destinations)
- Provide better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to major ports and airports

#### **What is a Road of National Significance?**

Roads of National Significance make vital contributions to the social and economic wellbeing of New Zealand. They provide a strong and safe highway network that links our regions effectively with our major cities, major ports or international airports.

They support high volumes of general traffic and heavy vehicles.

Roads of National Significance are engineered and built to our highest standards of safety and levels of service. Typical physical characteristics of a Road of National Significance are:

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls - for example storm water management
- High quality signage

They are New Zealand's safest roads. To date, there have been no fatalities on these world-class roads.

## **How was it decided that these would be the next generation of projects?**

The new roads have been identified using the New Zealand Transport Agency's *One Network Road Classification* system.

The system categorises State Highways based on the function they perform, such as linking major population centres or how busy they are moving freight to and from ports.

The classification system divides New Zealand's roads into six categories based on how busy they are and their strategic importance. The six categories in order of importance are:

1. National (including a sub category of 'High Volume')
2. Arterial
3. Regional
4. Primary collector
5. Secondary collector
6. Access

All of the projects identified as making up the next generation of Roads of National Significance are classified as 'National' importance or 'high volume', with the exception of Tauranga to Katikati which is of 'Regional' importance but included because of the high number of fatal and serious injury accidents on the road in recent years.

## **Why are these projects considered Roads of National Significance?**

The 10 projects are on some of the most important State Highways in the country that require work to reduce congestion, improve safety and support economic growth.

They are a mix of sensible and logical extensions on current Roads of National Significance, or new roads responding to emerging regional priorities.

## **How much will these projects cost?**

The new roads are expected to cost around \$10.5 billion, on top of the estimated \$12 billion invested in the initial seven.

## **How will the new roads be paid for?**

As we have previously said, once the original projects were completed new projects could come on and would be funded by existing revenue sources.

Like the first tranche, they will be funded from the National Land Transport Fund and the use of Public-Private Partnerships.

The initial funding will come from our record infrastructure investment of \$32.5 billion announced in Budget 2017.

## **When will the projects start?**

We will be committed to delivering the projects as quickly as possible so we can unlock economic potential that we know exists.

As we have seen with the original seven Roads of National Significance, not all projects will be able to get underway immediately as they will all have a different set of issues and complexities that will need to be worked through.

We will also need to consult with each community, secure resource consents and in some cases purchase properties.

That said, we are committing to substantially complete the projects within the next 10 years.

**When will the projects be completed?**

As we have seen with the original seven Roads of National Significance, not all projects will be able to get underway immediately and finish at the same time.

We are committing to substantially complete the projects within the next 10 years.

**Will there be opportunities for the community to provide feedback?**

Yes, there will be full engagement with the public and iwi from the outset on each project.