



# Stepping forward

Implementing New Zealand transport sector reform

Newsletter November 2008



## Community Transport Fund update



*West Coast Road, Panguru, Far North District. This section of the road next to Waihou Marae regularly floods, isolating the community that relies on the road to access the outside world. This is an example of a project that could qualify for funding from the Community Transport Fund.*

NZTA staff have begun providing guidance on the operation of the Community Transport Fund to councils that have indicated an interest in it. A number of potential activities have been identified where the fund could assist.

Meanwhile the NZTA Board has approved the first activity for T funds (from the Community Transport Fund) - approximately \$1.6 million for the replacement of the Owenga Wharf at the Chatham Islands. The wharf is critical for the community on Pitt Island (in the Chatham Island group) to access vital services on the main island.

The Community Transport Fund aims to provide additional funding assistance to AOs to address the unmet transport needs of established communities\* in areas of high socio-economic deprivation\*\*. The NZTA would welcome active engagement with AOs and interested communities to identify and address unmet needs.

The general circular, detailing how the fund operates, is available at <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/publications/general-circulars/08-12.doc>.

Proposals for activities to be included in the 2008/09 NLTP by way of a variation and funded from the Community Transport Fund in the 2008/09 financial year will need to be either:

- > in the current NLTP, or
- > in a current consulted annual plan, or
- > long-term council community plan (LTCCP).

The funding will be provided at an enhanced level to assist approved organisations with the local share.

A suite of questions and answers are available for more in-depth information.

The NZTA has developed an information sheet for communities, which could assist AOs during their discussions with community groups or individuals.

For more information about the Community Transport Fund, please send an email to [CommunityTransportFund@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:CommunityTransportFund@nzta.govt.nz) or phone Coral Aldridge on 04 894 6165 or your NZTA representative.

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\* For the purposes of this funding, an established community is defined as a long standing community containing a number of primary residences in close proximity to each other and includes shared community facilities (such as halls, churches, schools, marae). The fund is not intended to provide funding assistance to recently established communities (or residential areas) or individual properties and dwellings.

\*\* As measured by the NZDep2006 Index of Deprivation. Information on this index is available at: [www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/dhb-maps-and-background-information-atlas-of-socioeconomic-deprivation-in-nz-nzdep2006](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/dhb-maps-and-background-information-atlas-of-socioeconomic-deprivation-in-nz-nzdep2006).

## Procurement review update

### Feedback has begun

Formal feedback on the NZTA's new *Procurement manual* has begun with the release of a feedback document - hard copies of which have been posted to all approved organisations (AOs) and industry supplier groups.

Copies of the interim *Procurement manual* and feedback document are downloadable from [www.landtransport.govt.nz/funding/procurement/index.html](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/funding/procurement/index.html).

### Roadshows underway

The procurement review roadshow has already been to Whangarei, Auckland, Wellington, Tauranga and Hamilton. These will be followed by presentations in:

Christchurch 1 December	Comodore Hotel (airport) 449 Memorial Avenue Burnside, Christchurch	Nelson 8 December	Rutherford Hotel Trafalgar Square Nelson City Centre, Nelson
Greymouth 2 December	Ashley Hotel 74 Tasman Street Greymouth	Palmerston North 10 December	Travel Lodge 175 - 185 Cuba Street Palmerston North
Dunedin 4 December	Scenic Circle Southern Cross Cnr Princes & High Streets Dunedin		

The roadshows introduce the interim *Procurement manual* to stakeholders and provide opportunities for attendees to ask questions of the project team. They also provide information on the feedback process. Further information on the roadshow locations, venues and registration process is available at [www.landtransport.govt.nz/funding/procurement/roadshows.html](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/funding/procurement/roadshows.html).

### Piloting the interim *Procurement manual*

The third workshop for the AOs involved in the piloting of the interim *Procurement manual* was held recently. The workshop focused on applying the new procurement procedures to specific procurement activities that will lead to NLTP funding applications. The next pilot workshop is scheduled for early December 2008. The feedback from the pilot participants together with information gained from the formal feedback process will help shape the final version of the new *Procurement manual* before its launch in mid-2009.

# Interest high in Domestic Sea Freight Development Fund



Interest has been high in the NZTA's Domestic Sea Freight Development Fund, with 19 applications totalling \$17.8 million received by the 31 October deadline for the \$6 million in funding available for 2008/09.

A funding panel is now assessing these applications and its recommendations will be considered by the NZTA Board when it meets on 18 December 2008. A proposed second funding round in February will seek applications for funding during 2009/10.

One of the key targets in the *New Zealand transport strategy 2008* is to double coastal shipping's current share of inter-regional freight by 2040. The purpose of the Domestic Sea Freight Development Fund is to help the sea freight sector prepare for a greater role in our freight system. Public and private sector organisations can apply for funding. Over the next three years, \$30 million in funding will be available.

For more information please go to <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/sea-freight/>.

## Three-year planning, programming and funding

### Management of N and R funding

NZTA Chief Executive Geoff Dangerfield has written to all chief executives and chairs of regional transport committees to inform them that the NZTA Board has reviewed a previous decision on allocating R funds to types of activities previously funded from N. This was prompted by concerns from a number of councils and regional transport committees, and discussions between the NZTA, Local Government NZ (LGNZ) and the Ministry of Transport.

In his letter, Mr Dangerfield states the NZTA had signalled during the past two NLTPs the pressures on N funds and the need for R funds to be spent at a faster rate, which resulted in the NZTA initially changing its position on the use of R and N funds.

The letter continues: 'Since this decision was made, the Board has received feedback, took this on board, deciding to extend the period for the allocation of R funding, including the borrowed funds. This means the types of projects that were funded from N in 2007/08 will continue to be funded from N in 2008/09, as long as they are consistent with the GPS.

'We appreciate that this decision does not fix the issue, but moves the effect back a year. We are not in a position to specify the outcome beyond this year. However, we are committed to working collaboratively with LGNZ to find a solution during the first half of 2009.

'Some concerns were also raised around allocating R funds to minor capital works on local roads as local authorities perceived a reversal in policy with respect to the issue of prioritisation as set out in the Land Transport Management Act. We have looked at this issue and are confident that this is not the case because we expect the region to focus on the amount of funding for that type of work, not the detail of individual activities.

'The NZTA is responding to recent changes of strategy and policy from central government. We are not in a position to guarantee long-term levels of funding as these are government decisions. The NZTA will respond to government policy as we engage to understand the priorities for infrastructure and funding from the incoming government.

'As decisions are made, the Group Manager Regional Partnerships and Planning will work with the NZTA's regional directors and staff to make sure your organisation is kept up-to-date', Mr Dangerfield's letter concludes.

## 2009/12 RLTPs - preparing draft plans for consultation

Users will now be able to extract and manipulate information from LTP online. The NZTA will soon release an updated spreadsheet incorporating changes requested by users.

The spreadsheet enables regions to manipulate programme data from LTP online to assist developing an RLTP and a funding plan. Instructions on how to extract lists of activities and use it in the drafting of RLTPs are available on the Smartmovez website: <http://www.smartmovez.org.nz/>.

### Important reminder

AOs are reminded to enter their information in the live environment by logging into LTP online from the NZTA website, or by using this link: <https://ltpo.landtransport.govt.nz/pls/ltpoprod/main.login>.

Please do NOT use the staging or test environments to do this, as the information will be overwritten and is not transferable into the live environment.

## Public transport

### SuperGold Card update - free off-peak public transport

Over half a million SuperGold cardholders now have access to free off-peak public transport.

Since 1 October 2008, cardholders have had free access to off-peak public transport on scheduled train, bus and harbour ferry services. The card can only be used for public transport travel within a region. The West Coast is the only area where the scheme is not operating, but discussions are underway with local and regional authorities to look at ways of getting the scheme operating in this region as well.

Regional councils and the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) are responsible for administering the scheme. Additional government funding is being provided to regional councils (and territorial authorities with public transport delegations), and ARTA to run this scheme. Monitoring will be carried out by the NZTA. The Ministry of Social Development are responsible for administering the SuperGold card.

Off-peak hours are 9am to 3pm weekdays and after 6.30pm until the last service, all day Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays.

For more information about this scheme, please go to [www.supergold.govt.nz](http://www.supergold.govt.nz).



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