

23 October 2019

Barry Garrick
fyi-request-10943-711e148e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: NZT-4391

Dear Barry

Thank you for your email of 1 October 2019 about cost estimates for projects mentioned in a 2017 political party announcement.

Below is information about four laning in the corridors you identified:

Wellsford to Whangarei

I can confirm that a four-lane motorway was never planned by the NZ Transport Agency for State Highway 1 (SH1) between Wellsford and Whangarei.

East West Link in Auckland

Four laning was considered for the East West Link and the cost estimate for the project was \$1.25 - \$1.85 billion. The business cases for this project are available on our website and can be accessed at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/east-west-link/publications.

Cambridge to Tirau

While the Transport Agency does not have a project identified as Cambridge to Tirau, we do have the Cambridge to Piarere project and the Piarere to Taupo project.

- **Cambridge to Piarere**

An Indicative Business Case for the Cambridge to Piarere Long Term Improvements was completed in 2017. This advised that the indicative costs were in the range of \$390 million to \$620 million.

- **Piarere to Tirau**

The Transport Agency completed this work in 2016, as part of a business case considering SH1 from Piarere through to Taupo, which confirmed the need for improvements on SH1 between Piarere to Tirau. This work recommended safety both short term improvements and more significant transformational improvements in the medium term (10 to 20 years) when traffic volumes increase, and safety triggers are met. Whilst further work is needed to confirm the form of improvements, the business case suggested that a 2+1 lane arrangement may be appropriate through to Taupo.

Piarere to the foot of the Kaimai Range

The 2016 Programme Business Case (PBC) confirmed safety and efficiency problems that impact on the ability of State Highway 29 to function as a National (high volume) road. In particular, the section of State Highway 29 over the Kaimai Range has a sub-standard safety record, poor resilience and a higher cost of travel due to steep gradients.

The PBC recommended a programme of improvements that included intersection upgrades, passing lane improvements and a realignment of the road over the Kaimai Summit to lessen the impact of the steep grade. These improvements are expected to result in a more consistent journey that will make State Highway 29 (with the State Highway 1 Waikato Expressway) the preferred route for inter-regional travel between Auckland and Tauranga.

Four laning was not a recommendation within the PBC.

Tauranga to Katikati

Four laning for Tauranga to Katikati was only ever considered at the 2016 PBC stage as part of a long-list of options. As a good portion of the Tauranga to Waihi corridor is rural and the project objectives mostly revolved around safety, four laning past Omokoroa and out to Katikati never made the short-list so was not investigated any further.

Napier to Hastings

No work has been done by the Transport Agency to estimate the costs to four lane the entire corridor from Napier to Hastings.

Manawatu Gorge

On 15 October 2019 the Transport Agency announced that the new Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway will be two lanes each way for the majority of the new road, including the plateau across the Ruahine Ranges. This project has an estimated cost of \$620 million.

Levin to Sanson

No work has been done by the Transport Agency to estimate the costs to four lane the corridor from Levin to Sanson.

Christchurch Northern Motorway

An overview of the Christchurch Northern Corridor projects and the estimated project cost are available online at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/christchurch-motorways/christchurch-northern-corridor/. I can confirm that no cost estimates were created in 2017 for four laning of the section of the road north of the Waimakariri River.

Christchurch to Ashburton

Christchurch to Ashburton has never been a Transport Agency project and no work has been done to assess the cost of four laning between Rolleston and Ashburton.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Robyn Elston

Senior Manager, System Design