

15 February 2019

Josh Thurston

fyi-request-9422-6296774f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-4600

Dear Josh

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 17 January 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Dear NZ Transport Agency, I would like an update and any recent project reports relating to progress on developing the cycleway between Ngauranga and Petone, specifically including any timeframes, any other projects that this depends on, and any decisions made about either delaying or bringing forward this project. Yours faithfully, Josh

The NZ Transport Agency is partnering with Wellington City Council (WCC), Greater Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council to provide a safe and efficient walking and cycling route between the Wellington CBD and Melling in Lower Hutt. The Wellington to Hutt Valley Walking and Cycling Link (referred to as the W2HV Link) will connect with existing walking and cycling facilities located along the Petone Esplanade and the Hutt River Trail.

The Wellington to Hutt Valley (W2HV) Link has three sections, as outlined in Attachment A and summarised below.

Wellington CBD to Ngauranga section

This section was delivered by the WCC and is now operational. It runs from Bunny Street, along Thorndon Quay and Hutt Road, to the Ngauranga interchange.

Ngauranga to Petone (N2P) section

The proposed option is a five-metre shared off-road path from the Ngauranga interchange to the Petone interchange, which would run adjacent to SH2. The preferred location for this section is on the seaward side of the Hutt Rail Line. Construction would require coastal reclamation, which presents a complicated consenting process for this part of the project.

The Transport Agency has finalised the design for the coastal reclamation, which was considered for approval by the Transport Agency Board last December. Reports supporting the N2P final design are not yet publicly available and cannot be released until the formal December Board resolution has been publicly released. I have decided to withhold information related to these reports under section 18(d) as the information will soon be publicly available.

The design process considered potential impacts on the coastal environment, the rail line, as well as impacts on visual amenity. The preferred design has incorporated ecological, coastal marine environment, and amenity mitigations. As outlined above, this was recently considered by the Board and will soon be publicly available.

Petone to Melling (P2M) section

This is an off-road cycle path adjacent to SH2 between Petone and Melling, with shared path connections linking the Petone railway station to the Hutt River Trail.

Detailed design for the Petone to Melling section of the W2HV Link Programme is complete and consents have been approved. Construction of this section is currently on hold while we undertake a cost review due to be completed early 2019. I have decided to withhold information related to the cost review under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions between Ministers and officials.

For further information publicly available on the P2M section, please refer to the project website - <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/wellington-to-hutt-valley-walking-and-cycling-link/publications>

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Michael Siazon, Senior Project Manager, by email to Michael.Siazon@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6138.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Reid', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Reid
Senior Manager, System Design

Attachment A:

