

Draft Corridor Plan

Wairarapa Corridor: Masterton to Upper Hutt

This corridor follows the current state highway 2 from Upper Hutt over the Kaitoke and Rimutaka Hills through to Masterton.

Identified needs and issues

- Low population growth in the Wairarapa.
- The importance of continued access to employment in Wellington CBD and the Hutt Valley by Wairarapa residents.
- A significant growth in forestry and timber products expected over the next 20 years.
- Increase in the demand for freight transport to the Port.
- Growth in tourism.
- Increases in recreation and shopping journeys.
- Limited passenger rail frequency for commuters, tourism and recreation.
- Limited affordable options to increase the Rimutaka Hill Road capacity.

These needs and issues were used in the analysis process to identify the following short and long term proposals.

Projects to 2008

Roading

- Construct improvements on the Kaitoke Hill Road (\$10 million).
- Any future upgrade of the Rimutaka Hill Road should aim to achieve an overall standard of 70 kph recognising that lesser standards (generally at least 50 kph) will be applied where it is impractical or uneconomic to apply a 70 kph standard.
- Complete design and construction of the “Muldoons Corner” section of the Rimutaka Hill Road.
- Maintain continuous improvements on the Rimutaka Hill Road to meet the underlying growth in traffic excluding the demands of forestry and timber products.
- Develop passing lanes on the Featherston-Masterton Road and bring all bridge structures up to required standards, including the early replacement of the Waiohine River bridge.

- Extend the seal on rural local roads of special tourist or forestry significance where cost effective.

Rail freight

- Protect and develop rail infrastructure, wagons and facilities for freight and forestry links between Masterton and Wellington by partnerships between commercial interests and service providers.
- Investigate, and if feasible develop a log transfer and storage site at Waingawa as a commercial partnership.

Public transport

- Continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of passenger rail services on the Upper Hutt-Masterton route to meet the needs of commuters, tourists and those engaging in recreation, including the refurbishment or replacement of all substandard passenger carriages.
- Provide connecting bus services as required.

Projects for Beyond 2008

- Continue to develop the Rimutaka Hill Road to 70 kph standards.
- Develop additional passing lanes on the Featherston-Masterton Road.
- Extend the seal on rural local roads of special tourist or forestry significance where cost effective.
- Investigate, and if feasible, develop a log transfer and storage site near Featherston.
- Upgrade railway stations on the corridor.
- Construct railway stations at Timberlea and Cruickshank Road.
- Continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of passenger rail services on the Upper Hutt-Masterton route particularly to meet the needs of commuters, tourists and those engaging in recreation.
- Provide connecting bus services as required.