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Akatarawa Road Bridge Replacement Programme

17 May 2010

Bridge B1/4 was programmed to be replaced in the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 financial years. As part of their review of capital works spending New Zealand Transport Agency asked if the construction date for bridges B1/5 and B1/6 could be brought forward. Council subsequently approved their share of the additional funding allowing the construction date to be set earlier than expected. This means that all three bridges are expected to be replaced by the end of the 2010/11 financial year, i.e. June 2011.

The existing design contract with Beca Consultants was extended to cover the design, tendering and supervision of the construction of all three bridges.

Core drilling to determine the foundation conditions at bridges B1/5 and B1/6 and the other investigations necessary to determine the design will begin shortly. This work should not affect access along Akatarawa Road.

In order to provide the best value for money to the public and to ensure that the replacement of the three bridges is coordinated, the tender for bridge B1/4 has been delayed to allow all three bridges to be tendered as a single contract.

Preliminary design has been completed for bridge B1/4. The preliminary design identified a number of issues including:

- The estimated price to construct this bridge has increased from \$1M to

\$1.55M. This is the result of site conditions that were determined during the investigation phase. It is expected that there will be a similar increase in the estimated price for the other two bridges. The additional expenditure must be approved by council for the work to proceed.

- Because of site constraints retaining the existing bridge as a heritage structure would almost double the cost of the work (from \$1.55M to \$2.88M) and is therefore not affordable.
- These site constraints also mean that the most economic option will require the road to be closed for an estimated period of five weeks per bridge.

A report has been prepared outlining these issues. This will be presented for consideration at the council meeting on Wednesday 19 May, starting at 4.30pm. Any member of the public with an interest in this matter is welcome to attend that meeting and to speak if they wish.

A copy of the full report can be obtained from www.upperhuttcity.com/akatarawa or phone 527 2169 to have a copy posted to your address (UHCC cannot guarantee that it will arrive before the council meeting on Wednesday).

To register for future updates by email visit www.upperhuttcity.com/akatarawa and click on the link to register.

For more information please contact the councils' Technical Support Unit on 527 2152.