

Frequently asked questions on...

# Akatarawa Road Bridge Replacement Programme

## **What consultation has been carried out with the public?**

The replacement of the Akatarawa Bridges is a project that has been included in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) since 2009. The replacement of the first bridge (B1/4) was included in the Annual Plan for the 2009/2010 financial year. Both these plans had extended public consultation periods, including public meetings.

## **What will be discussed at the Council meeting on 19 May 2010?**

The original budget for the replacement of each bridge was set at \$1M. The Council also expressed a desire to preserve the existing bridge as a heritage item if possible and to keep any road closure to a minimum. Initial investigations have: identified that the lowest possible cost to replace the bridge is very likely to exceed the budget set by Council; and also quantified the additional cost to save the old bridge and to reduce the time the road is closed. In order for the work to proceed Council needs to approve a new budget. The meeting on Wednesday 19 May 2010 will consider the budget. If Council approves the additional expenditure then additional funding will also need to be sought from New Zealand Transport Agency for their share of the cost.

## **Why the short notice of the Council meeting on Wednesday 19 May 2010?**

The first opportunity for Council to consider the proposed change to the budget is the full Council meeting on Wednesday 19 May. The meeting date and the agenda were publicised in the normal manner. The letter drop carried out on Monday was done as an additional means of ensuring that all residents of Akatarawa Road were made aware of the issues to be discussed.

## **How long will the road be closed for?**

The length of time that the road is closed will depend on the option chosen and the amount that Council is able to pay for the work. The estimate of five weeks for the option that was closest to the budget was provided by the Consultant based on past experience. Some contractors may have techniques or methods that will allow them to do the necessary work in a shorter time and this is a factor that will be considered when the construction work is tendered.

## **If the road is closed for five weeks:**

### **What about access for emergency service vehicles (e.g. ambulances or fire engines)?**

Emergency services will be advised and a contingency plan for emergency access is being prepared. Affected residents will get a copy of the plan with contact details once it has been completed.

When the road has been closed in the past, emergency services have been advised and have directed the response from the open end of the road. Closing the road will not affect telephone communications.

### **What about rubbish collection?**

We will make temporary arrangements with the refuse contractor e.g. relocate the present collection "box" to the Upper Hutt side of the closed bridge with walking access through the construction site. Commercial collectors will need to be advised that access will be from the Waikanae end of Akatarawa Road.

### **What about mail delivery?**

Initial discussion has been had with NZ Post and they consider that acceptable options can be provided. We will advise nearer the time.

### **What about access to school buses?**

Options to address this will be considered once the detailed design has been completed and the work is closer to commencing.

### **What about affected businesses on Akatarawa Road?**

We will discuss any closure with those businesses. We will try to work with them to time the work to minimise any disruptions.

### **What happens if the road to Waikanae is closed?**

The road being closed at both ends is something that has occurred in the past, and is something that will occur in the future. If this occurs, both Upper Hutt City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council will work to reopen the road as soon as possible. With winter approaching it is an appropriate time for residents of Akatarawa Road to check their own preparations for such an event. Information about what you need to do to prepare can be obtained from Civil Defence.

### **What other options are UHCC considering for maintaining access?**

A vehicle ford has been considered but is not likely to be suitable at this site. There are difficulties with access to the river and safety risks for users. In particular the way the depth of the river can change rapidly during periods of rain is a hazard that cannot not be managed safely. A design for a temporary footbridge at bridge B1/4 is being developed and will be included in the construction tender. Contractors will also be invited to provide alternative options (e.g. a bailey bridge) that provide a higher standard of access.

### **How can I get further information and keep up to date with progress?**

To register for future updates by email visit [www.upperhuttcity.com/akatarawa](http://www.upperhuttcity.com/akatarawa) and click on the link to register.