

Request to vary the Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015-2021

Purpose:	To enable the Regional Transport Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council to consider a request for a variation to the <i>Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015-21 (RLTP)</i> .
Requesting organisation:	New Plymouth District Council
Contact person/s:	Carl Whittleston
Variation request:	Level Crossing 2017/18 Projects – New Plymouth District
<p>Background to variation request</p> <p>These are NZTA Frontloaded Level Crossing 2017/18 projects that were not submitted into the Taranaki RLTP. Bob Alkema from NZTA Head Office can provide more information on this funding allocation if required. These projects are 100% funded by NZTA.</p>	
<p>Details of variation request</p> <p>Project 1 – Total cost \$20,000 to undertake an investigation / feasibility study for safety improvement works at the Weymouth St level crossing for pedestrians. Options ranging from an underpass and automatic gates were considered.</p> <p>Project 2 – Total cost \$210,000 to design, construct and trial various pedestrian safety mitigation devices along the Coastal Walkway in New Plymouth. Footpath decals, illuminated LEDs in the footpath and voice message devices are being installed and trialled.</p>	
Location:	New Plymouth Coastal Walkway
Scope and duration:	Details of work are as above. Expected to be completed by end of April 2018.
Estimated cost/s:	Project 1 \$20,000 + Project 2 \$210,000 = \$230,000 total cost
Funding source/s:	N Funds (100% subsidised)
Links to Objectives & Policies of RLTP: <i>Refer to Table 5 on page 48 of the Plan</i>	<p>This variation aims to improve the safety of these railway crossings for pedestrians, preventing death and serious injury. To a lesser extent it will reduce related closures to the railway.</p> <p>This activity will contribute most significantly to the following RLTP policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S3: Support the aims of Roadsafe Taranaki. S4: Support the aims of Safer Journeys G2: Focus on effective and efficient strategic road and rail corridors, particularly between inter-regional ports. A3: Ensure a range of travel options are available to the region's residents.
Impacts on RLTP:	The proposal does not negatively affect any other projects in the RLTP, nor affect the overall integrity/affordability of the Plan. This

	is additional funding agreed by NZTA for funding pedestrian safety at KiwiRail crossing points.	
<p>Relationship to the RLTP's Significance policy on variations: Refer to Section 7.4 on page 59 of Plan</p>	The proposed change of adding this rail level crossing upgrade project to the RLTP does require a variation process to be undertaken. The variation does not trigger the significance policy in terms of requiring that a new public consultation process is undertaken however, most specifically for being in the urgent interest of public safety.	
<p>Process for consideration and approval of variation requests</p> <p>The current RLTP for Taranaki was approved in April 2015 and any significant new capital works that need to be included require a variation to the programme of activities component of the RLTP. A project must be included within the RLTP before it can be approved for funding from the National Land Transport Fund which the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) distributes through the National Land Transport Programme.</p> <p>In accordance with the RLTP variation policy, any variation to the RLTP should be considered and supported by the Regional Transport Advisory Group (RTAG) before being forwarded to the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) for consideration and endorsement, then to the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) for final approval. The NZTA is then notified of the varied Plan, per section 18D of the <i>Land Transport Management Act 2003</i>.</p>		
<p>Timeframes for consideration of variation request</p> <p>The following outlines the expected timeframes for processing this variation request. The organisation requesting the variation is responsible for outlining the proposal to the RTAG and RTC.</p>		
Consideration by RTAG	Wednesday 7 March 2018	<p><i>Progression to the following step will only occur if support of the variation request is given by the considering body.</i></p>
Consideration by RTC	Wednesday 21 March 2018	
Consideration by TRC	Tuesday 10 April 2018	
Forward to NZTA	Wednesday 11 April 2018	
<p>Supporting attachments</p> <p>KiwiRail Local Roads Level Crossing Upgrade Program 2017 18.pdf</p>		