

13 April 2010

Kapiti Coast District Council
Private Bag 60601
PARAPARAUMU 5254

Attention: Mr Peter Knight

NZTA Expressway – Draft KCDC Objectives

Dear Peter,

Thank you to yourself and Dr Gael Ferguson for taking time to consult with Chamber representatives on the formulation of the KCDC Objectives for the NZTA Expressway.

While supporting the draft Objectives in their broad context, **we believe they do not give sufficient justification to the presence of an Interchange in central Paraparaumu.** For reasons we have explained elsewhere and are happy to elaborate on if needed, this Interchange is crucial because it prevents our primary employment and commercial areas being ‘by-passed’ with long term negative effects for local employment and the general economic health of our community.

The expression ‘town centre’ in Objective 3 conjures images of shopping, recreational and civic spaces. In using this term we may undersell to NZTA and the Alliance the importance of having direct access from the Expressway to the central Paraparaumu commercial areas and the (soon to be) regional Kapiti Coast Airport. A large amount of the traffic to and from the civic ‘town centre’ is likely to be local and therefore use local roads. Why therefore the need for an Interchange? In fact, not having an Interchange to service the ‘town centre’ could be seen as an advantage by the NZTA who have said in the past that they wish to keep local traffic off the Expressway.

Objective 6 talks about efficient freight routes in general. This is good and needs to be an Objective, but does not recognise the particular importance of the Paraparaumu commercial areas and Airport, nor our desire to avoid alternative commercial areas springing up around alternative Interchange locations.

In the current draft, the justification for an Expressway interchange in the central area of Paraparaumu is based on the ‘town centre viability’, yet the viability of the nearby commercial areas and airport is also significant; perhaps more so. This needs to be recognised in the draft KCDC Objectives document. It is currently not adequately recognised in Objective 3, nor in Objective 6.

Recommended Change

Amend the heading of Objective 3 to read “Town Centre and Commercial Area Viability”.

Amend paragraph 3a to read “... into and out of the Paraparaumu town centre, nearby commercial areas and airport.”

Alternatively, if you wish to retain the Town Centre objective as purely for the Town Centre, add in a completely new Objective “Commercial Area Viability” with appropriate explanatory text.

The Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of many local businesses and people, recognises the work that has gone into drafting the document thus far. We ask that you incorporate our suggested changes, and provide a reply to this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Ternent, MNZM
Chairperson
Kapiti Coast Chamber of Commerce