

## Road moving in right direction

The Kapiti Chamber of Commerce says that the latest NZTA consultation document is a significant step in the right direction for the future economic health of Kapiti and a testimony to the value of having the KCDC representing the interests of the Kapiti community as a part of the roading 'Alliance'.

"Putting interchanges on Kapiti and Te Moana roads is smart and represents local needs" says Chamber Chairman Mark Ternent. Along with the Peka Peka and Poplar Avenue access points; this is a good balance between local needs for access and regional and national needs for an Expressway which flows safely. "This proposed design also gives the Kapiti community access to a much needed second river crossing."

Having got a workable minimum number of Expressway access points in the right general locations and a second route over the Waikanae River, attention can now focus on the more detailed but still crucial aspects of Expressway design such as:

- Fair and prompt dealing for affected persons
- Essential linking roads from residential, commercial and town centre areas to and from each other and the Expressway access points
- Features for beautification and reduction of environmental impact
- Lifestyle keys such as walking and cycling tracks and the way they cross the Expressway

"Kapiti has too few jobs for the number of people who live here" says Mr Ternent "and the Expressway will help by bringing opportunities to the district because we are more accessible to the north and the south. We should also keep in mind the significant safety improvements that the Expressway will bring, as well as the considerable amount of money to be spent in our district over the next decade – some of which will filter into local pay packets."

ENDS

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