

18 March 2011

KAPITI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUBMISSION TO NZTA ON PEKA PEKA TO OTAKI EXPRESSWAY

The text of this submission was submitted to NZTA via its website on 18 Mar 11

The Kapiti Chamber of Commerce supports:

- The building of the Expressway as soon as possible, for the broad reasons given on page 2 of the public consultation document.
- The proposed general locations and configurations for the Expressway access points (see note that follows re preferred option for south Otaki interchange).

This submission is short and limited to the key issues affecting business. There are many other issues which need to be taken into account (such as concerns of segments of the community, or residents of specific areas) and we trust these will have been addressed in submissions by other bodies or people. The Kapiti Chamber has also had input into and endorses the submission made by the Wellington Employers Chamber of Commerce.

The Kapiti Coast Chamber of Commerce submits:

- That commercial traffic to and from the River Road, Clean Tech centre, and adjacent areas should find it simple and quick to get to these areas from the expressway.
- That ease and simplicity of access to and from the 'outlet' shops on the current SH1 is very important, and that in particular north-south expressway traffic should not find it off-putting to break the journey at Otaki.
- In regard to the foregoing; Option A is preferred for the South Otaki interchange.
- That prompt and fair dealing with affected parties is very important.
- That mitigation of Expressway effects (noise, visual, etc) and 'beautification' is very important.
- Complimentary use of the Expressway designation for biking, walking and bridleways and non-vehicular crossings are also important,

Based on feedback recently, but also over the 16 or so months since the project was first announced, the Kapiti Chamber of Commerce advises that the almost unanimous feedback from business people on the Kapiti Coast has been essentially to "get on and build it, dealing fairly and promptly with affected people".

We refer NZTA to the previous Chamber submissions on the MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway Project regarding the rapid growth of Kapiti, the increasing need for business in the area, and the increasing ability of the area to contribute to the wider Wellington regional and NZ economies. We note the importance to Otaki, Kapiti and the wider Wellington region of the Clean Tech centre and the other businesses on or near the River Bank Road industrial and commercial area. We also note

the importance of the Otaki Town centre and the 'outlet' destination shopping strip on the current SH1.

Nature Coast - While Kapiti is increasingly adopting the name 'Kapiti' over 'Nature Coast', NZTA planners must be aware that the phrase 'nature coast' still in many ways sums up the unique character of the area, and the viewpoint of many of its residents. This character and its associated lifestyle are key reasons for businesses choosing to start, remain, or move to the Kapiti Coast, of which Otaki is a part. Hence the minimisation of the negative effects of the Expressway and the maximisation of the opportunities it brings are both very important not just for the residents, but also for the future of business and tourism in the area.

Factors Affecting the Long Term Economic Future of Kapiti - The Kapiti Chamber has previously submitted a simple list of the key Expressway related factors critical to the long term economic future of Kapiti: access to the Expressway; connectivity between areas; and Kapiti is a 'good place to be' ('nature coast' and lifestyle aspects).