



Media Release

Thursday 14 June 2006

Consultation on Transport Issues for Woodend Begins

The public is being invited to become involved in devising a future transport solution for Woodend area in the wake of increasing road traffic.

The first of three rounds of public consultation will begin on 19 June 2006.

The consultation process involves two open days at the Woodend Fire Station on Wednesday June 28 from 3pm to 8pm and on Saturday 1 July from midday to 4pm.

Feedback questionnaires are being sent to all households within the Woodend area.

Representatives from Transit and the Waimakariri District Council will be on site during the open days to listen to the views of the community and assist with questions.

Transit's Regional Transportation Manager, Michael Blyleven, says both Transit and the Council are concerned at the impact of increased traffic volumes and continued growth in the area on both the community and efficiency of the State Highway.

We want to identify and confirm what issues the community considers relevant to transportation in the area, such as:

- Severance of the community due to the increase in road traffic, especially through Woodend
- Delays for those travelling long-distances who pass through Woodend;
- Reduced amenity and safety within the local community
- Increased road traffic from residential and rural-residential development generated in the area, much of which is expected to commute to Christchurch; and
- Potential for future transport solutions disappearing due to new development.

Michael Blyleven says Transit is specifically interested in the community's views around a possible future state highway to the east or west of Woodend or by amending the existing State Highway.

Waimakariri District Council Utilities and Roothing Manager, Don Young, says it is important to now hear what the community thinks are the key issues facing a future transport solution for Woodend.



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"We need a solution that will address the adverse impacts of traffic on the community and provide a transportation system that is safe, sustainable and efficient.

"We appreciate and value the input of local knowledge in this process as we investigate and ultimately determine a way forward for Woodend."

The results from this first consultation round will be used, along with feedback from Woodend Futures, to identify a transport corridor of State Highway options for Woodend.

These options and how they were arrived at, will be presented during the second round of consultation.

A joint report on the current transport issues in Woodend can also be viewed at the Woodend Library or on Transit and the Council's websites – www.transit.govt.nz or www.waimakariri.govt.nz

The study area is limited by Saltwater Creek to the north, Smith Street and Lineside road to the south, the Coast to the east, and to the west by the eastern urban edge of Rangiora.

The closing date for this first round of consultation is 14 July 2006.

For further information contact:

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