



SmartGrowth Newsletter #25, May 2008

Welcome to the SmartGrowth Newsletter.

Transport is becoming a hot topic in the run up to the general election so those of us working with SmartGrowth and SmartTransport (www.smarttransport.org.nz) will be watching this space with interest.

Transport is essential to the success of SmartGrowth. Around 289,000 people are expected to be living in the Western Bay and Tauranga by 2051 – we need to start planning now to ensure there is enough public transport and good roads to enable our residents to get around safely, sustainably and without wasting excessive amounts of time sitting in traffic jams. It is therefore good to see a new bus service has already been introduced to serve the growth area of Pyes Pa West which will eventually feature around 3000 homes.

A discussion paper on sustainable transport, which is an update to the New Zealand Transport Strategy, is out. This will have a big impact on planning for our future transport needs. Therefore SmartGrowth staff have submitted on the paper to ensure the policies and strategies are in place at a national level to enable us to manage, plan and fund our transport requirements at a local level.

Bill Wasley
SmartGrowth Independent Chairman

Council revises direction for residential growth

The Tauranga city mayor and councillors have adopted a new pathway for the management of growth in the city.

While the new direction is still consistent with SmartGrowth intensification goals, the style and pace of intensification is to be modified.

The draft Smart Living Places strategy, published last year, identified Greerton and Arataki as 'Smart Living Places' or areas for residential intensification. However, due to strong feedback from the Greerton and Arataki communities, the Council has decided to recommend the way forward is for smaller and more staged intensification. This means the draft plans for Greerton and Arataki will not proceed as proposed.

Mayor Stuart Crosby said the proposal recognises the need to plan ahead sensibly but develops increased living opportunities, over time, that are more compatible with existing residential environments.

"This means that while there will be changes in existing residential areas, these changes will occur across more areas, less widely and in a less dramatic way. This is called 'sensible growth management' or 'staged intensification,'" said Mayor Crosby.

Staff will continue to consider ongoing transport and infrastructure needs to maximise this new direction.

Accommodating growth in the city centre (or CBD) is currently being considered as part of the City Centre Living Strategy. A series of meetings with local residents on this strategy were held in mid-May.

New lakes bus service set to cause a ripple

While the potential pace of development in Arataki and Greerton may have slowed under Smart Living Places, the growth of Pyes Pa West is set to continue. Residential growth in the Pyes Pa area is recognised in the Smart Growth strategy with 3,000 homes expected to be built in this area by 2021 including 2,000 homes in The Lakes subdivision at Tauriko.

As part of its commitment to serving growth areas, Environment Bay of Plenty has launched an hourly bus service between The Lakes and Tauranga city centre.

Bus service number 12 starts at 7.10am from The Lakes and travels via Tauranga Hospital and Cameron Road, arriving in the city centre at 7.40am. The last bus from the city centre leaves at 5.15pm, arriving at The Lakes at 5.45pm.

Regional Land Transport Committee chairman Andrew von Dadelszen said the service was important in a residential growth area, recognised by SmartGrowth, where single occupancy car use could impact dramatically on congestion.

"The service offers new residents the opportunity to get into good habits as soon as they move in by using the bus service and choosing a sustainable transport option rather than jumping into their cars," said Councillor von Dadelszen.

For more information on the service visit www.baybus.co.nz.

Hearings start for Te Puke food park

The future of a 72-hectare industrial site on the northern fringe of Te Puke as a proposed industrial park will soon be decided.

Te Puke landowners Peter and Gail West are seeking the re-zoning of the land from rural to industrial to enable the proposed park to go ahead.

The private plan change proposed by the Wests will go to a hearing on Wednesday, 4 June and Thursday, 5 June at Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

If successful, this site would provide 45 hectares of industrial land for an export-focused business park for food manufacturing and processing, plus supporting industries.

Priority One and Te Puke Fast Forward are also working with the developers of the proposed park to promote tertiary education linked to food production.

The plan change involves conditions set by Transit New Zealand to modify access to the park off State Highway 2. This would include the future provision of a new link road from Te Puke Quarry Rd to No 3 Rd and traffic lights or a roundabout at the intersection of No 3 Rd and the State Highway.

Regional land transport committee chairman Andrew von Dadelszen boards the new No 12 service from Tauriko.



Travel plans can help your organisation travel more efficiently

Tauranga City Council (www.tauranga.govt.nz) wants to share its experience of setting up a workplace travel plan by helping other organisations do the same.

A workplace travel plan is a package of measures aimed at increasing the number of people choosing to travel by more sustainable modes than driving alone. Implementing a plan could save your staff time and money, increase their fitness and help make your business more efficient. And fewer vehicles on the road means less traffic congestion and better air quality.

Workplace travel plans are recommended for organisations with 25 or more employees – or smaller companies can form a travel plan cluster.

For more information on travel plans email travelplan@tauranga.govt.nz or phone Mike Calvert or Frank Begley on (07) 577 7000.



Surveys begin for Katikati bypass

Transit New Zealand will be carrying out traffic surveys, ground surveys and geotechnical testing over the next few months for the proposed Katikati bypass.

The bypass is designed to reduce the major traffic problems in the Katikati central business district which has large trucks and all through traffic driving through the main street.

Work on making this section of road safer and less congested is important as residential development in Katikati is part of the SmartGrowth strategy.

Work on improving State Highway 2 has become all the more important since the publication of the Kiwi RAP 2008 report (www.kiwirap.org.nz) which listed SH2 between Paeroa and Katikati as the 16th worst stretch of road in terms of fatalities in New Zealand.

The work also includes investigations into the possibility of a roundabout at the State Highway 2 / Wharawhara Rd intersection and traffic lights at the SH2 intersection with Marshall and Henry Roads.

The two projects will reduce northbound vehicle speeds on SH2 and improve access to a new industrial area. Investigations are in the early stages, with consultation on the project to begin soon.

Omokoroa roundabout update

Work is underway to make the Omokoroa Road intersection with State Highway 2 safer. Survey work for preliminary design options has been completed for improving the intersection. A large roundabout is planned for the intersection with Omokoroa and Youngson Roads to make the area safer for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Omokoroa has been recognised under SmartGrowth as an area that will experience residential growth and that growth has already resulted in increased traffic in the area.

Geotechnical surveying starts shortly and consultation will also be done with residents.

SmartGrowth snippets

Rail update

Environment Bay of Plenty is currently looking into the protection of long-term transport routes. Planners are analysing the issues and alternatives around road and rail links between the Bay and neighbouring regions. This is linked to research being carried out in conjunction with Environment Waikato on inter-regional transport corridors.

Did you know?

- 145,650 people live in the Western Bay and Tauranga, according to the 2006 census
- 11.3% more people live here than in 2001
- 3.4% of New Zealand's population live in the Western Bay and Tauranga
- 198,000 people are expected to live here by 2021
- 289,000 people are predicted to live here by 2051

Funding for rail and shipping

SmartGrowth has called for the creation of a section of the Ministry of Transport dedicated to port, coastal shipping and rail issues. This was part of a submission by SmartGrowth to a discussion paper, updating the New Zealand Transport Strategy. The paper is important because it will have an impact on transport planning, funding and delivery. It also focuses on energy and climate change. For more information visit www.transport.govt.nz.



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