

4 April 2019

Andrew Hollis
fyi-request-9709-9ebda545@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-4772

Dear Andrew

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 28 February 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"Status of the Tauranga Northern Link Project and the allocated funds associated with that project.

"Please provide detail on the Tauranga Northern Link project especially confirming the \$220million allocated to this project and where that money currently is.

"Ideally, please provide minutes of meetings and board meetings where this road has been discussed over the past 2 years.

"Please include any minutes that include the Minister of Transport."

Regarding the part of your request that asks for "detail" and "minutes of meetings and board meetings", we have interpreted this to be in relation to the status of the Tauranga Northern Link project and the allocated funds for the Tauranga Northern Link project (the topic of your request).

Status of the Tauranga Northern Link Project

A new vision for our transport network was set out in the Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport. The Tauranga Northern Link Project (along with 11 other projects) therefore had to be re-evaluated by the NZ Transport Agency to assess whether it aligned with the new GPS/new vision. The re-evaluation was completed, and the outcome announced in October 2018. Available here: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/new-plans-to-improve-safety-drive-transport-choice-and-plan-for-future-on-sh2-between-waihi-and-tauranga/>. Further information on the re-evaluation outcomes can be found on the project website at: www.nzta.govt.nz/tnl

The re-evaluation technical report for the State Highway 2 (SH2) Waihi to Tauranga corridor, including Tauranga Northern Link, will be made available on the Transport Agency website in due course.

We are now considering funding and timing for the Tauranga Northern Link against funds available nationally. We anticipate that we may be able to provide an update on the next steps for this project in the coming months.

Tauranga Northern Link funding

Tauranga Northern Link was approved by the Transport Agency Board for pre-implementation and implementation phases in March 2016. The funding approved by the Transport Agency Board was \$286 million. The difference between the \$286 million approved in March 2016 and the \$270.3 million of approved funds held beyond the current National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) 2017-2028 period, is the cost incurred through works completed between 2016 and 2018 in the pre-implementation phase. This phase included specimen design, consenting and property acquisition.

Because of the new GPS the Transport Agency Board has requested more work to be done before it makes a decision on any future funding and timing for this project (and all re-evaluated projects).

Documents requested

The documents that fall within the scope of your request are listed in the attached Document Schedule and are enclosed.

I have withheld certain information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows us to withhold information to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

I have withheld certain information under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act. This section allows us to withhold information to the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

I do not consider that it is in the public interest to make this information available.

Board meeting minutes and minutes of meetings with the Minister of Transport

The Transport Agency Board meeting minutes are available on the Transport Agency website at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/about-the-nz-transport-agency/our-board/board-meeting-minutes/>

The 5 October 2018 Board meeting minutes have an item relating to the outcomes of the re-evaluation of SH2 Waihi to Tauranga corridor, including Tauranga Northern Link. These minutes are available at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us-2/docs/board-meeting-minutes-2018/minutes-20181005.pdf>

Regarding the part of your request that relates to minutes of meetings that include the Minister of Transport, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18 (e) of the Act because the information requested does not exist.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Chris Gasson, Portfolio Manager, System, Design and Delivery, by email to chris.gasson@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on 09 928 8708.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Reid', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kevin Reid
Senior Manager, System Design

OIA-4772 Document Schedule

Ref	Document	Date	Description
1.	180214 Tauranga Northern Link Project Control Group meeting minutes	14 February 2018	Monthly meeting minutes
2.	180828 Re-evaluation workshop summary notes	28 August 2018	Workshop notes