

Report 16.440
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Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee
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RiverLink - Project Manager's report

1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with the RiverLink Project (formerly named the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project HRCCUP).

2. Background

RiverLink extends from Kennedy Good Bridge to Ewen Bridge, and aims to provide better flood protection, transport and lifestyle for central Hutt. The Project, now in the Preliminary Design phase, is progressing well. Officers aim to seek Subcommittee recommendations in mid-2017 to proceed to the next phase of the project, which is to prepare applications for statutory approvals to carry out the work. The preliminary design phase will address issues raised by the stakeholders, landowners adjacent to the project area and wider community and keep them informed of progress.

Acquisition of property required for the flood protection aspects of the project is progressing and further information is included in the Flood Protection Update report.

3. Programme

The overall project programme extending out to 2025 is summarised in **Attachment 1**. This programme will be updated at key decision points for the project.

The timeline programme for the current preliminary design phase of RiverLink is attached as **Attachment 2** to this report. The work streams for the preliminary design phases are currently proceeding to programme.

4. Budget

The total project budget overview is summarised in the table below. This information relates to all phases of the project and will be updated to reflect any cost estimate updates that occur at key decision points for the project.

	Spent \$m	Estimate to complete \$m	Forecast \$m	Budget \$m	Comment
Flood Protection Works (GWRC)	\$4.3	\$73.7	\$78	\$78	Total project estimate will be refined through the preliminary design process.
Melling Bridge (NZTA/HCC)					Indicative business case in development which will refine costs. Forecast costs relate to the initial estimates for any Melling Bridge component of the interchange project which is part of the wider SH2 Corridor Project
Making Places and Local Infrastructure (HCC)		\$35.5	\$35.5	\$11 <i>(Making Places)</i>	Further information included in HCC Making Places report. Total cost estimate being refined by this phase

The total estimated cost of the preferred option is \$143 million. Report PE 2015.256 to the 25 June 2015 Subcommittee provides a more detailed breakdown of the total cost.

5. Risks

A summary of high ranking risks are:

- Confirming commitment to funding by partner agencies
- Co-ordination of work programmes
- Melling Bridge remaining as a constriction in the river
- Property acquisition costs and current property market movement
- Delivery of Making Places vision
- Retention of commercial and business activity in Hutt City

6. Property Requirements

Greater Wellington Regional Council has commenced the purchase of properties required for delivery of flood protection aspects of RiverLink. Further details of these purchases are included in the Flood Protection Work Report.

Making Places and Melling Gateway property requirements are still being identified by their respective lead agencies and will commence once those requirements have been defined.

7. Design Progress

Design work currently underway includes;

- River Channel design
- Berm Design
- Making Places river interface design
- Transport impact modelling
- Melling Interchange IBC

Each design component will present their draft Preliminary Design reports in March 2017.

Further information is included in the Flood Protection, Making Places and Melling Interchange update reports.

8. Mana Whenua Engagement Strategy

The draft Mana Whenua engagement strategy is currently being reviewed.

9. Community information and engagement

9.1 Neighbourly and Have your Say

We have used Neighbourly and other social media channels to advertise engaging with the project and the Hutt River Environment Strategy. We will continue to use these channels for promotion of engagement events.

We continue to collect information and feedback through GWRC's Have Your Say site.

9.2 RiverLink Website

The RiverLink website address is scheduled to launch on 23 September 2016. A landing page will be created, later replaced by a page including more detailed information. This page will contain project overview information and link across to existing, more detailed information that will be contained within the respective council and agency websites.

9.3 Newsletter

Newsletter 3 will be distributed during the week of 19 September 2016. A copy of Newsletter 3 is included as **Attachment 3** to this report.

Copies of the newsletter will be mailed out to the owners of the 117 properties being acquired as part of the project. This will include a covering letter with more detailed information relevant to the property acquisition process and the revised programme for the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill.

A copy of the newsletter will be mailed out to those who have registered to be kept informed about the project.

Copies of the newsletter will be available online to download, and also in hardcopy from HCC, UHCC, GWRC offices, as well as located in the respective council libraries.

9.4 Community Design Workshops

Community Design Workshops focusing on Making Places and river berm design are being held on 30 September and 1 October at the Dowse, Lower Hutt.

9.5 Business and Stakeholder Design Workshop

A business community and other stakeholder design workshop focusing on Making Places and river berm design is being held on 31 September at the Dowse, Lower Hutt. The material of this workshop is being tailored to the business and commercial property owner community.

9.6 Focus Groups

The community engagement section of the communications strategy has been expanded to include creation of three focus groups to work with the community on delivering aspects of the project. These include;

- River corridor and berm design – Kennedy Good Bridge to Melling Bridge includes Mills Street
- Making Places CBD area
- Melling Suburb Focus Group

In addition the project team will work with HCC's community focus group to capture input from a broader section of the Hutt Valley community.

9.7 Hutt River Environment Strategy User Intercept Survey

A presentation about the completed Hutt River User Intercept Survey was held on 7 September. This information collected from this survey is being used to inform the RiverLink design.

10. Communication

No communication is necessary.

11. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

11.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

11.2 Engagement

No engagement is necessary.

12. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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Attachment 1: Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project – Programme

Attachment 2: Hutt River City section preliminary design and decision making process timeline

Attachment 3: RiverLink Updated Newsletter #3, September 2016