

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



TCB25-0612

Anita Baker and Darrin Apanui
Chairs, Wellington Mayoral Forum and Iwi Forum
Regional Mayoral Forum
C/- mayor@porirua.govt.nz

Dear Anita and Darrin,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2025 regarding a new connection between metropolitan Wellington and the Wairarapa.

I have sought feedback from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and have been advised that prior studies undertaken in 2008 and 2016 found that investment in an alternative corridor would come with a significant cost and deliverability risks. As such, making improvements to the level of service and resilience of the existing route was the recommended course of action.

At present, National Land Transport Programme funding is committed to other funding priorities across the country and there is no spare funding to allocate to a further alternative route study. Instead, NZTA advises the current short-term strategy is to maintain the existing corridor to an appropriate level of service to ensure safe and reliable journeys.

NZTA has advised that any future study of the broader State Highway network within the Wellington Region and beyond will, as in previous studies conducted in 2008 and 2016, consider a wide variety of options for improvements. However, it is highly likely that similar conclusions will be reached.

While I am not in a position to meet with you at this time, I appreciate you taking the time to share your suggestion and encourage you to participate in any future planning for this corridor. Should you wish to continue to advocate for prioritisation of an alternative route, you may wish to indicate your support via commentary in future Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs) for NZTA's consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Transport