

↳ Moves to address planning certainty welcome, funding and timeframes still waiting in the wings

According to NZCID Chief Executive Stephen Selwood, today's announcement extending the State Highway Plan for an extra year is "great progress enabling better alignment of central and local planning and give roading constructors much needed certainty to develop capability and capacity".

"It is pleasing to see the Government making much needed moves to address these long standing issues, it is an accepted fact that the development of transport infrastructure is key to economic growth".

The Government said today it sees a world class transport as at the heart of driving to transform our economy. Selwood says that while they are making some positive headway with earlier funding increases and today's announcement, but more momentum is required is the Government intends to make their goal a reality."

"Truly delivering world class transport infrastructure requires further step change in all key areas of concern:

- ↳ Increased funding within the six year timeframe
- ↳ Improved transport governance and decision making processes
- ↳ Streamlined planning and consent processes

"Progress like this is always welcome", says Selwood. "But we need to keep in mind that all around New Zealand there is a growing backlog on the books which includes numerous long awaited strategic projects. Left unaddressed our future needs can only increase further. We must compress delivery timeframes and urgently:

- ↳ Upgrade the national rail track
- ↳ Upgrade Wellington and Auckland rail's rolling stock and services
- ↳ Expand our public transport capacity

Complete essential roading projects: Auckland's Western Ring Route, Wellington's Transmission Gully, the Waikato Expressway, Tauranga's strategic roading network, Christchurch's motorway extensions, access for Queenstown and nationwide state highway four laning and safety improvements.

"It is a very full basket of priorities which simply cannot be ignored. Other nations have met the challenge head on and delivered (<http://www.nzcid.org.nz/funding.html>) often as a result of crisis, hopefully New Zealand is smarter and won't let it slip that far".

I Notes to editors

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NZ Council for Infrastructure Development

NZCID is an authority at the forefront of infrastructure development issues. Our numerous members stem from sectors across New Zealand, including: equity owners, service providers, public sector agencies, major infrastructure users. Together we share a clear purpose: world class infrastructure for the benefit of all New Zealanders. A goal we are committed to achieving by:

- ↘ Raising awareness of the fact that infrastructure underpins our community's quality of life and that inadequate infrastructure holds back New Zealand's economic and social growth
- ↘ Generating valuable debate on the quality and level of infrastructure provision to meet New Zealanders' needs
- ↘ Encouraging the implementation of best practice infrastructure provision and management
- ↘ Identifying the condition of New Zealand's infrastructure and the challenges facing our infrastructure providers