

Report 2017.85
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Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee
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RiverLink Project Managers 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 and is on track to meet a 90% of preliminary design milestone in March 2017.

Officers aim to seek Subcommittee recommendations to proceed to the next phase later in 2017, following extensive Subcommittee workshop sessions in mid-2017. The next phase of the project is to prepare applications for statutory approvals to carry out the physical work. The preliminary design phase addresses issues raised by stakeholders, landowners adjacent to the project area and wider community, and keeps them informed of progress.

3. Programme

The overall project outline 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. Risks

A summary of high ranking risks are:

4.1 Confirming commitment to funding by partner agencies.

This will be addressed by LTP processes that have commenced at both HCC and GWRC. NZTA follow a separate process as part of the development of the indicative business case, and updates will be provided when key decisions are released.

4.2 Co-ordination of work programmes

The RiverLink project encapsulates a number of component projects across the three councils/agency involved. These are at slightly off-set stages and accommodation has been built into the overall programme to allow for each partner to reach similar milestones at similar times to assist with inter-agency decision making.

4.3 Melling Bridge remaining as a constriction

Melling Bridge is a major constriction point in the river, and retention of the existing Melling Bridge would mean a limit of a 1-in-200 year return period level of service for flood protection. Also there is little opportunity for improvement in traffic and congestion issues, and providing a Hutt CBD gateway.

4.4 Property acquisition costs and current property market movement

The commencement of property acquisition for the implementation of the Flood Protection upgrades coincided with an accelerating property market. This has increased cost of the purchase forecasts, this is being monitored by GWRC's management team.

4.5 Delivery of Making Places vision

The urban interface and river frontage developed by HCC is a key community measurable for the project. There are a number of challenges for HCC to deliver this vision. GWRC and HCC officers have been working closely to develop practical implementation methods to achieve this vision.

4.6 Retention of commercial and business activity in Hutt City

Parts of the light industrial areas on Pharazyn and Marsden St are included in the property requirements for the flood protection upgrades. As part of the property acquisition strategy GWRC and HCC have been working to find alternate business and light industrial accommodation within Lower Hutt.

5. Property Requirements

Property purchase continues steadily on forecast with seven of 117 properties purchased, and 31 other properties at various stages in the purchase/sale process. Property acquisition is being managed by The Property Group.

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

6. Design Progress

Preliminary design work to enable progress with refinement of project costs for GWRC and HCC project components will continue to be worked on through March 2017. These work streams include all aspects of the project from local roading, through to stopbank design, to ecological and recreational enhancement.

Each design component will present their draft Preliminary Design reports in March 2017, these will be reviewed by GWRC, HCC and NZTA's project teams and information compiled and incorporated into reports to GWRC, HCC and NZTA governance structures.

Further information will be provided for discussion during workshop sessions throughout the first half of the year.

6.1 Workshops

The next 3 Subcommittee workshops have been scheduled as set out below. The purpose of the workshops is to provide an opportunity for Councillors to be fully familiar with the different aspects and complexities of the project ahead of making a decision to proceed to the next phase later in 2017;

- **29 March 2017**
RiverLink Councillor Design Workshop 2: The proposed river channel

This workshop will cover the design of the river channel, berm areas and stopbanks and what the design will achieve in terms of flood protection, maintenance, ecology, community spaces and linkages to the CBD and adjacent suburbs and opportunities created for service improvements created by the project.

- **7 April 2017**
RiverLink Councillor Design Workshop 3: The proposed urban landscape, Promenade and connections with CBD/Lower Hutt

The workshop will focus on what is happening on top of and behind the stopbanks linking the river to the CBD, impacts on transport, pedestrian connections and opportunities for the suburbs and areas adjacent to the project space.

Outline Agenda:

1. Urban Landscape
 - a. Environmental strategy
 - b. Recreation areas and zones
 - c. Access points to river
2. Promenade
 - a. Civil Design (MSE Walls/stopbank)
 - b. Features
3. Connectivity – pedestrian, cycle, public transport, traffic

- a. Network/hierarchy for Lower Hutt
- b. Melling Interchange
- c. Melling Train station
- d. Pedestrian bridge
- e. Bus terminal
- a. Cycle way/path
- b. Car parking

The RiverLink Community Open Day follows the workshop and is being held at the Dowse Art Gallery

- **10 May 2017**
RiverLink Councillor Design Workshop 4: The proposed land use for the Western and Eastern side of the river

This workshop will focus on the opportunities and shapes of the suburbs adjacent to the project area. In particular what could be done with Melling Station the footbridge connection to the CBD and integration of transport modes. It will also look at the future parts of Making Places.

Outline Agenda:

- i. Western side (overall plan/vision)
 - 1. Melling Station/pedestrian bridge/park-n-ride
 - 2. Urban design outline, Belmont Zone and Tirohanga zone
- ii. Eastern side (overall plan/vision)
 - 1. Pedestrian bridge/cycle ways/pedestrian hierarchy/bus terminal/
 - 2. Urban design outline Boulcott zone and Eastern Hutt zone
- iii. Consent Strategy

7. Mana Whenua Engagement

The draft Mana Whenua engagement strategy is currently being reviewed by Port Nicholson Settlement Trust and Ngati Toa.

8. Community information and engagement

Community engagement has been ongoing and focused primarily on raising the project profile and providing information about the project to the community.

8.1 Neighbourly and Have your Say

We have used Neighbourly and other social media channels to advertise engagement opportunities with the RiverLink 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 the RiverLink project website and GWRC's Have Your Say site.

8.2 RiverLink Website

The RiverLink www.riverlink.co.nz website is live and our main online gateway for the project. This includes project overview videos, links to more detailed information and contact details for the project team.

8.3 Community Design Workshops

Design workshops are planned for 6, 7 and 8 April 2017 to present design progress based on feedback from previous community workshops, correspondence and events.

The material for this workshop will be tabled at the meeting for discussion with councillors.

8.4 Trial sites for RiverLink outcomes

The success of the Pop Up approach with the River Beach has accelerated the programme of trials of parts of RiverLink design. These are currently intended to include a trial wetland and stormwater treatment area, a trial of in stream ecological habitat and a trial of bank edge rock lining and planting.

9. Communication

No communication is necessary.

10. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

10.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

11. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

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Report approved by:

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Attachment 1
Attachment 2

Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project – Programme
Hutt River City Section Preliminary Design and Decision Making Process
Timeline