

# Memorandum

To: Board of Directors  
 From: Melanie Alexander, GM Network Management  
 Cc: Andrew Allen, EGM Service Delivery  
 Date: 31 October 2023  
 Subject: Funding scenarios for connecting Vaughans Road to Te Oneroa Way

## Background

Vaughans Road a local rural road which varies in width (narrows down to as little as 3.5m in sections). The completion of private development on the northern end of Long Bay connected it to Te Oneroa Way to create a new direct route between Long Bay and Okura. It is expected that traffic volumes because of this new connection will increase from the 650 vehicles per day(vpd) to around 3,500 vpd which raises significant safety and operational risks. AT has therefore temporarily closed the connection between Vaughans Road and Te Oneroa Way. To date we have engaged with the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board and conducted drop-in sessions with Okura and Long Bay communities. We stated that this temporary closure will be in place for 18–24 months, giving us time to investigate any mid-term solution that may be appropriate to increase safety on Vaughans Road. The long-term solution of a full upgrade of is also to be considered through the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) process.

For this memo, ‘Vaughans Road’ is the 3.2km stretch including Vaughans Road and Okura River Road between Vaughans Road and East Coast Road. The ‘link’ refers to the connection between Vaughans Rd and Te Oneroa Way. The link is envisaged in the Unitary Plan’s Precinct Plan for Long Bay. Funding scenarios for the upgrades are given below:

Option	Scope and Cost	Pros	Cons
<b>1. Interim – Localised Widening</b>	Carriageway patched and sealed on Vaughans Road and widened to 5.5m at intervals to provide passing bays.  Cost: \$2,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget can potentially be programmed to be available in 2025/26 FY.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The limited scope of improvements may not result in satisfactory safety outcomes. This would still prevent the link from being opened.</li> <li>Okura residents generally preferred long-term upgrade of Vaughans Road over a localised widening option.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Interim – Do-minimum widening</b>	Carriageway patched and sealed on Vaughans Road and widened to 5.5m (plus shoulder). Would include low-cost improvements at the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowest-cost option for full corridor upgrade.</li> <li>Road brought up to higher standard which increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carriageway is not being rehabilitated and may require regular maintenance.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Vaughans Road / Okura River Road intersection.</p> <p>Cost: TBC in the study*</p>	<p>likelihood of meeting safety standards, thereby enabling the link to be opened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The opening of the link is particularly supported by Long Bay residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will require application to Waka Kotahi and subject to prioritisation process.</li> <li>Footpath and bridle paths, and upgrade of East Coast Road / Okura River Road intersection not in scope. This was included in the long-term upgrade consulted on circa 2014.</li> <li>Okura residents generally preferred long-term upgrade of Vaughans Road over lower-cost option.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Interim Upgrade</b>	<p>Carriageway rehabilitated and widening to 6m plus berm area. Would include low-cost improvements at the Vaughans Road / Okura River Road intersection.</p> <p>Cost: TBC in the study*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road brought up to higher standard which increases likelihood of meeting safety standards, thereby enabling the link to be opened.</li> <li>The opening of the link is particularly supported by Long Bay residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding will require application to Waka Kotahi and subject to prioritisation process.</li> <li>Footpath and bridle paths, and upgrade of East Coast Road / Okura River Road intersection not in scope. This was included in the long-term upgrade consulted on circa 2014.</li> <li>Okura residents generally preferred long-term upgrade of Vaughans Road over lower-cost options.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Regional Land Transport Plan upgrade</b>	<p>Full upgrade of Vaughans Road including footpaths.</p> <p>Cost: \$15 million</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest standard of safety and amenity enabled through larger budget allocation.</li> <li>Closest to Okura and Long Bay residents' expectations for the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No certainty of funding.</li> <li>Even if funding confirmed, delivery is most likely towards the end of the decade.</li> <li>Scope may be changed from previous RLTP proposal consulted on, given increased construction costs.</li> </ul>

\*A study is underway to determine the extent of deficiencies on Vaughans Road that need to be addressed to enable the link to be opened. The study will allow us to determine which of Options 1 to 3 would be appropriate to adopt. This decision would be based on funding justification and dependent on timing of option 4.