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## MINUTE 8 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Further information request relating to Waipapa Stream Bridge  
Takitimu North Link – Stage 2  
[FTAA-2507-1085]

29 January 2026

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[1] This minute records the Panel’s direction to the EPA to request further information from the Applicant relating to Waipapa Stream Bridge.

[2] The Panel has received the **attached** advice from its technical advisor relating to traffic and transportation matters, Phil Harrison, dated 28 January 2026 (**Traffic Advice**).

[3] The Traffic Advice arises from Mr Harrison’s review of the Applicant’s response dated 16 January 2026 (and two accompanying attachments<sup>1</sup>) to the Panel’s information request (RFI12) dated 16 December 2025, which related to safety concerns previously raised by Mr Harrison north of the Project and specifically the tie into SH2 south of the Waipapa Stream Bridge. The Applicant’s response acknowledges those safety concerns and seeks to assure the Panel “*that the safety of the State highway network is of utmost importance to NZTA.*”

[4] The Traffic Advice concludes that the widening of the Waipapa Stream Bridge is required to ensure a Safe System Approach to the TNL2 project and recommends

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant extracts of the Detailed Business Case Supporting Growth and Transforming Road Safety between Ōmokoroa and Te Puna (dated July 2017) and relevant extracts of the SH2: Takitimu North Link Stage 2 Specimen Design Stage Road Safety Audit Report, December 2021.

that a condition be imposed requiring the widening of the Waipapa Stream Bridge and its approaches to provide sufficient width to enable the introduction of a median barrier and appropriate shoulder width suitable to accommodate walking and cycling with roadside barriers on each approach.

[5] To assist the Panel in its decision making, it has directed the EPA to request the following further information from the Applicant pursuant to s67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, to be provided together with the Applicant's closing and final proposed conditions, due by **5 p.m. on Thursday 5 February 2026**.

### **Information requested**

[6] Confirmation that the ownership and responsibility for operating the Waipapa Stream bridge lies with NZTA on behalf of the Crown.

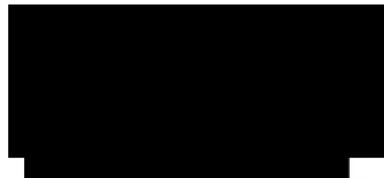
[7] An explanation as to why widening of the Waipapa Stream Bridge has not been included as part of the Project in light of the recommendations in the Safety Audit Report, December 2021.

[8] An estimate of the cost of undertaking (design and construction) the widening of the Waipapa Stream Bridge in accordance with the recommendation by Mr Harrison. This should be undertaken by an appropriate expert and include any limitations in relation to its accuracy.

[9] Any other legal, practical or planning / consenting considerations which are considered relevant to the Panel's imposition of the condition recommended by Mr Harrison.

[10] Any alternative solutions to address the safety issue identified by Mr Harrison and in the December 2021 Road Safety Audit report, and acknowledged by the

Applicant. This response should include any specific *Augier* condition(s) the Applicant is willing to offer to address these issues and provide greater assurance to the Panel in light of Mr Harrison's recommendation.



Mary Hill  
Takitimu North Link – Stage 2 Expert Panel Chair