Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday 2 September, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

New approach aims for "forgiving" roads and survivable crashes

Around 70 people from different walks of life but all connected to the road transport sector are working together in Invercargill this week to try a new, collaborative approach to make Southland's roads safer.

The 70 participants are attending the Safe System in Practice Workshop, arranged by the New Zealand Transport Agency, together with the Invercargill City, Southland District and Gore District Councils, on Wednesday and Thursday at the Civic Theatre.

Invercargill City Council Roading Manager Russell Pearson said the Workshop was an intensive and challenging two-day interactive course for the Southland road transport sector.

He was delighted at the high level of participation, which included teams from the New Zealand Police, local engineering consultants, contractors, ACC, Fonterra, councils' planners, engineers, Councillors and executive members.

Mr Pearson said all of the participants were passionate about contributing to making the roads across Southland safer and organisers appreciated their commitment in devoting two days to the Workshop.

"We see this as an exciting opportunity to better understand how the Government's *Safer Journeys Strategy* will work and gives a forum for ideas to be shared on how to make the changes necessary to significantly reduce the number of fatalities and serious injury crashes on roads in Southland. This is a really important starting point for us all," he said.

"The New Zealand Transport Agency and New Zealand Police have arranged

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for the leaders in road safety to present their area of expertise and bring the latest and best knowledge and experiences to our teams who design, control, build, or work on the roading networks.

“The Safe System Approach recognises that people are vulnerable and drivers do make mistakes but by using the four safety pillars – safe roads and roadsides; safe vehicles; safe speeds; and safe users - we are able to identify effective treatments to improve safety on the roads.

“We have people from nearly every roading sector and it will be very interesting to see how they work through the case studies and what solutions they develop as they will come from different angles and will bring different experiences to the problem solving.

“A truly safe road system is forgiving of human error and seeks to manage crash forces to survivable levels. That’s what we want our system to achieve,” Mr Pearson said.

ENDS.

NOTE: Members of the media are invited to the introductory session of the Workshop from 8.30am to 9.00am on Wednesday 3 September at the Victoria Rooms Civic Theatre 88 Tay Street Invercargill. Roading Managers from the local councils will be available to answer any questions.

Inquiries, please contact:

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