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## RiverLink project another step closer to construction

The RiverLink Partnership has appointed a Principal Technical Advisor to set the requirements needed to establish a team that will transform Lower Hutt into a more resilient, connected, and vibrant city.

Professional services company GHD will prepare documentation for the RiverLink project's detailed design and construction procurement processes. This is needed to ensure the right consultants and contractors are selected for the project which will result in better transport connections, improved flood protection and new riverside developments.

Once the consultants and contractors are engaged, they will work on:

- the construction of:
  - a new interchange (with a local road going over State Highway 2) and a river bridge, connecting to the Lower Hutt CBD
  - new intersections and road realignments that integrate with the local network
  - enhanced pedestrian and cycle routes
- lowering and widening Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River, as well as raising the height of the stopbanks, for greater flood resilience
- the creation of new spaces by the river for people to live, work and play - including pedestrian and cycling paths - a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the river, and recreational areas.

"It's great to have GHD onboard and working with us to get to the construction phase of the project," says RiverLink Board Chair, Kara Puketapu-Dentice.

"We need robust requirements in place before construction starts and GHD have the skills and expertise to provide these. We're looking forward to working with them to achieve the RiverLink vision 'our people, our river, our city thriving together.'"

GHD Regional Leader and Project Lead, Carey Morris, says "It's a privilege to have been appointed as the Technical Advisor for RiverLink. This is an amazing project that will transform Lower Hutt CBD, creating better spaces, places, and experiences. Together with RiverLink's project partners, we're committed to helping develop a safer, more resilient and vibrant community for generations to come."

The appointment follows the award of contracts to:

- quantity surveyors BondCM, who are helping with cost estimates for the works
- infrastructure management consultancy Resolve Group, who will be working on documentation to support the procurement process for the works.

Construction is expected to begin in 2023 and take approximately five years to complete.

The RiverLink project is a partnership between Hutt City Council (urban development), Greater Wellington (vital flood protection), Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Melling transport improvements) and Mana Whenua – Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika.

# RiverLink

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## The RiverLink Board:

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Jenny Ngarimu (Ngāti Toa Rangatira) Carey Morris (GHD) Kim Skelton (Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika) Kesh Keshaboina (Waka Kotahi) Graeme Campbell (Greater Wellington)