

Appendix E, Attachment M – PAHI-TD Memorandum – Cabinet Approval of Preferred Route and Press Release

Environmental Statement

East-West Arterial Extension:

Section 2 (Woodland Drive – Lookout Road)

Section 3 (Lookout Road – Frank Sound Road)



MEMORANDUM

To: WRA Senior Vice President/ EWA EIA Project Director
From: NRA Managing Director
Cc: WRA Associate – EWA EIA Project Manager
EIA Coordinators – WRA-TYLin
Date: 16th July 2024
Subject: Cayman Islands Cabinet Decision - EWA EIA – Preferred Alternative

The National Road Authority (NRA) would like to formally inform you about the result of the Cayman Islands Government deliberation with regard to the East-West Arterial (EWA) Extension Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - Preferred Alternative selection.

The Cayman Islands Cabinet confirmed their decision to support **the B3 Alternative**.

The memorandum received by NRA from the Chief Office of the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport and Development (PAHITD) is enclosed for your record.

In line with the Cabinet's decision, the NRA endorses the direction provided and encourages WRA project team to proceed with the development of the EIA deliverables as per initial scope of works considering **B3 as the preferred alternative**.

The NRA hopes that following this communication, the WRA Project Team will be able to update and submit a revised project schedule that will reflect the new information.

Yours sincerely

Edward Howard

NRA Managing Director

Enclosures: MPAHITD Memorandum on EWA EIA Preferred Alternative decision– dated 12th July 2024

**Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure,
Transport and Development (PAHITD)**

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Deputy Chief Officer, Planning and Infrastructure
Managing Director, National Roads Authority – Edward Howard

FROM: Chief Officer, Ministry of PAHITD

DATE: 12th July 2024

OUR REF: N/A

**SUBJECT: EAST-WEST ARTERIAL 9EWA) PROJECT UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR
DETERMINATION OF PREFERRED ROUTE**

On the 27th June, 2023 Cabinet granted approval for:

- a) Noted the progress made to date on the EWA EIA;
- b) Approved the selection of option B3 as the preferred Route; and

Please action accordingly.



Andrea Faámoe
Acting Chief Officer
Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport and Development (PAHITD)

Environmentally Optimal Route Selected for Cayman Islands East-West Arterial Project

George Town, 9 August 2024 – The Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport, and Development of the Cayman Islands Government proudly announces that the Cabinet has endorsed Route B3 as the preferred route for the East-West Arterial (EWA) project. This strategic decision follows a meticulous evaluation process, where four potential routes—B1, B2, B3, and B4—were carefully considered to ensure the optimal balance between infrastructure development and environmental stewardship.

Strategic Evaluation and Decision-Making

Route B3 was selected after a rigorous, data-driven analysis highlighted its superior alignment with the Cayman Islands' long-term infrastructure vision. Route B4 was initially dismissed due to its significant environmental, social, and historical impacts. Further studies, conducted from September 2023 to April 2024, led to the elimination of Route B1, primarily due to its high environmental impact—affecting lands owned by the National Trust—and its prohibitive cost.

Routes B2 and B3 emerged as the final contenders, scoring equally in the comprehensive Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). However, Route B3 was ultimately chosen based on several critical factors:

Alignment with Long-Term Planning: Route B3 aligns more closely with the original long-term gazette plan, ensuring it supports the Cayman Islands' strategic infrastructure goals and future growth.

Environmental Responsibility: Route B3 minimizes the impact on lands owned by the National Trust, a key priority in preserving the nation's natural heritage. Moreover, it has a significantly lower impact on the critically important parrot habitat compared to Route B2.

Constructability: The route offers more favourable conditions for construction, reducing potential challenges and costs during the development phase, ensuring a smoother and more efficient project execution.

Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Despite being marginally longer—by just 0.5 kilometres (0.3 miles). Route B3 results in lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per trip compared to Route B2. This key finding debunks the notion that a shorter route would be inherently more environmentally friendly, underscoring Route B3's environmental advantages.

Commitment to Transparency and Environmental Stewardship

The National Roads Authority (NRA), working in close collaboration with the Ministry, played an instrumental role in conducting a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the EWA project. This multi-disciplinary study evaluated the potential effects on both the environment and local communities, providing the data necessary to inform the Cabinet's final decision. The EIA ensured that the project not only meets strategic goals—such as improving connectivity and reducing congestion—but also adheres to the highest standards of sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Ministerial Statement

Johany "Jay" Ebanks, Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport, and Development, emphasized the significance of this decision: *"The selection of Route B3 for the East-West Arterial project is a testament to our unwavering commitment to developing sustainable and efficient infrastructure. This choice reflects a careful balance between development, cost-effectiveness, and environmental responsibility. Route B3 not only aligns with our strategic goals but also ensures the preservation of vital natural resources for future generations."*

Future Steps

The East-West Arterial project is a cornerstone of the region's transportation strategy, aimed at enhancing connectivity, alleviating congestion, and fostering economic growth. With the approval of Route B3, the project now moves into its next phase, which will involve detailed planning, design, and continued stakeholder engagement to ensure that the development proceeds with full transparency and community involvement.

A Decision for the Future

While all stakeholders have their individual assessments and goals, the Ministry remains committed to transparency and accountability. It is crucial to recognize that, while Routes B2 and B3 were closely matched, Route B3 emerged as the clear choice, prioritizing environmental preservation, development feasibility, and the overall best interests of the Cayman Islands, its people, and the diverse ecosystems with which we share our beautiful island.

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information

For more details on the East-West Arterial project or to address any inquiries, please contact Mrs. Anne Kensington Lott, Head of Communications and PR for the Ministry. Additionally, further information can be found on the following websites:

- **National Roads Authority (NRA):** [NRA Website](#).
- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the East-West Arterial:** [Your EIA in Action Website](#).

These resources will provide ongoing updates and comprehensive information regarding the project and its environmental assessments.

About the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport & Development (PAHITD):

Under the guidance of Hon. Minister Johany “Jay” Ebanks, The Ministry of PAHITD is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Cayman Islands through comprehensive planning, sustainable agriculture, efficient housing solutions, and critical infrastructure development. Our mission is to create a resilient and thriving future for all residents and visitors.

About the East-West Arterial Project

The East-West Arterial project represents a significant infrastructure initiative designed to enhance transportation links across the Cayman Islands. It aims to create a sustainable and efficient route for commuters and goods, driving economic development and improving the quality of life for all residents.

About the National Roads Authority

The National Roads Authority (NRA) is responsible for the administration, management, control, development, and maintenance of public roads and related facilities in the Cayman Islands. The NRA's role is crucial in ensuring that infrastructure projects like the East-West Arterial are developed with a focus on sustainability and environmental consciousness.

Media Inquiries:

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