

Report 03.267
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Affordability Issues – Update

1. Background

This paper reports back on discussions held since the March 14 meeting of RLTC adopted a paper headed Affordability. The paper reports work in progress and proposed steps. As several elements are still in progress, the report is general:

- this year's funding round is not complete until Transfund announces its programme, expected to be late June
- while there have been indications of changes to, for example the network tolling and consultative provisions of the LTM Bill, they are not confirmed
- the mayoral forum and other regional leaders have expressed strong interest in pursuing the subject
- addressing the subject for Wellington region in particular is incorporated into normal RLTC process as part of reviewing the RLTS, a process to be reported in August.

2. Work In Progress

2.1 The Chair and officers have held discussions with national-level officials of transport interest groups. The following papers are being prepared:

- the economic case that transport is underfunded
- survey of models of future funding for transport (includes excise/tolling)
- application of these models to Wellington region (a GWRC component).

2.2 Officers have also held discussions with officers servicing the mayoral forum with a view to arranging for specific briefings on the above.

2.3 Liaison with Auckland is ongoing. Attached for your information is a copy of a recent Auckland RLTC newsletter setting out their models (**attachment 1**). These are being taken into account in the papers noted above.

3. Proposed steps

3.1 Specific followup on the Mayoral Forum's interest needs to be arranged. This should include briefing the forum on Wellington applications of models of future funding.

3.2 A wider one-off Forum, intended for transport interests including members of this and other RLTCs, is proposed as a public launch of the papers (and models). This is scheduled for after Transfund's programme is announced, when it is expected that the issue will be better informed.

3.3 The process of our RLTS review needs to include development of an affordability plan to go out to consultation. This plan would probably be structured around minimum and recommended scenarios, and needs to be informative around trend expenditures, proposed expenditures, and proposed revenues by source. The reported work is part of preparing this.

4. Conclusion

The report is for information. Committee discussion may identify improvements.

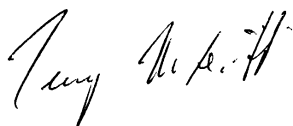
5. Communications

There is nothing relevant to communicate.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:



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Attachment 1: Auckland RLTC newsletter