



Report **05.390**
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Committee **Passenger Transport Committee**
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Wellington Transport Project - Stage 2 Announcement

1. Purpose

To formally receive government's decision on Stage 2 of the Wellington Transport Project.

2. Significance of Decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Wellington Transport Project started back in May 2004 after a meeting between the Council's Chairperson and the Minister of Transport. After some preliminary work undertaken by officials from Government and the Council the Wellington Transport Project Group (WTPG) was established. Government formally agreed the proposed process at a 28 July 2004 Cabinet meeting.

The WTPG made up of government officials and Regional Council and local authority officers met over several months and in November 2005 presented to Ministers Hodgson and Cullen a final report on the project. That report was considered by government in December 2004 and their decision announced on 27 January 2005.

The 27 January announcement stated that this was the first of two funding announcements, this first one excluded proposals for the region's Western Corridor but that a second announcement would be made around June or July after Ministers had reported back to Cabinet on a recommended government response to the draft findings of the Western Corridor Review study.

On 5 July 2005 Minister Hodgson announced a government funding package of \$660m to help fund projects on the Western Corridor. This was in addition to the January 2005 announcement of \$225m, giving a total of \$885m. This is only \$15m less than the crown package announced the previous year to assist

with Auckland's transport issues (**attachment 1**, copy of Minister Hodgson's speech of 5 July 2005).

4. Comment

The Committee is of course particularly interested in the crown funding support for passenger transport projects in the \$885m total.

4.1 27 January Announcement

- \$65m to retain mode share
- \$30m for enhanced passenger transport projects

(funding available in years 2005/06 to 2014/15).

The Council has agreed to raise an additional \$95m over ten years to unlock these Crown contributions.

4.2 5 July Announcement

Passenger transport crown funding is part of the \$255m package to deal with the highest priorities in the Western Corridor. The passenger transport elements identified in this category are:

- Electrification and double tracking of urban rail from Mackays Crossing to either Lindale or Waikanae (total cost \$45m)
- New stations at Lindale and Raumati South (total cost \$10m)
- Bus/ Rail interchange at Porirua (total cost 10m)
- Additional rolling stock to cater for increased demand (total cost \$72m)

(this funding will be available from 2007/08 to 2015/16).

The administration of crown funding will be through Land Transport New Zealand. The Council will need to reach agreement with LTNZ on how this funding, along with regional "R" funding, can be unlocked for passenger transport projects over the next ten years.

5. Communication

The Council has already released a media statement on the announcement.

6. Recommendation

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the 5 July 2005 announcement by Minister Hodgson on the level of crown funding that will be made available for transport projects in the Western Corridor.*

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Attachment 1: Copy of Minister Hodgson's speech of 5 July 2005