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Committee Regional Land Transport
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and Strategy

Update on the Wellington Regional Strategy and Regional Policy Statement Processes

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the progress with the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) and Regional Policy Statement (RPS) processes and to outline how the matters contained in those documents will be taken into account through the RLTS process. Both the WRS and RPS are relevant to the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS).

2. Significance of the 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 RLTS has a statutory link with the RPS through Section 175(3) of the Land Transport Act:

A regional land transport strategy may not be inconsistent with any regional policy statement or plan that is for the time being in force under the Resource Management Act 1991.

There is currently an operative RPS with which the draft RLTS is not inconsistent. The RPS is currently being reviewed under the requirements and procedures of the Resource Management Act.

The WRS is also a document of relevance to the RLTS because it sets the framework and direction for the sustainable economic growth of the region. The WRS has been prepared as a collaborative project by the nine Councils in the region, in conjunction with various community and sectors groups. Within this framework the physical connections provided by the transport network have been identified as a significant aspect of the region's future economic prosperity and good regional form.

The WRS identifies the RLTS as the principal tool for addressing investment in land transport in the region. The key principals relevant to the RLTS set out in the WRS include:

- The efficient operation of the region's road, rail and sea transport networks are fundamental to a well run economy
- East-west roading links are important, as is the investment in the current north-south links
- Improved access to the port and airport from Seaview will aid business growth
- Analysis of the implications of transport decisions on surrounding areas needs to be strengthened, to ensure the Wellington CBD and regional centres are properly supported and to unlock the economic potential of some areas.

4. Comment

4.1 Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement is currently being reviewed by Greater Wellington. The Transport Policy and Strategy Division has been involved with the early work on the review, including identifying issues relevant to the RPS from a transport (and RLTS) perspective. This involvement will continue throughout the review.

Greater Wellington is scheduled to consider draft RPS provisions in February/March 2007. Greater Wellington elected representatives will then meet with the Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC), possibly in April, to discuss the direction and implications of the draft provisions. This will provide the RLTC with an opportunity to provide feedback to Greater Wellington on matters that may impact on the RLTS.

4.2 Wellington Regional Strategy

The WRS was released for public submissions on the 30th September 2006. The submission period closes on the 30th October. The Interim WRS Committee (the committee tasked with taking the WRS through the consultation process) is scheduled to meet on the 4th December to consider submissions and make recommendations to Greater Wellington on the final form of the WRS. Greater Wellington will then consider the recommendations on the 14th December 2006.

The RLTS has been prepared taking into account the current WRS and is consistent with its provisions. The timeframe for the decision-making on the WRS will enable any changes to the WRS arising from the consultation process to be considered alongside submissions received on the RLTS.

Officers will ensure the committee is made aware of any changes relevant to the RLTS.

5. **Communications**

There are no matters that require communication arising from this report.

6. **Recommendation**

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.

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