

Consultation Plan for the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010 – 2040

November 2009

1. Communications

The communications relate to the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010 – 2040 (RLTS) and its associated summary document.

2. Introduction

The current 2007 – 2016 RLTS expires at the end of June 2010, necessitating a review and adoption of a new RLTS by that time. Amendments made to the Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) 2003 mandate new and updated sections to the RLTS.

The Regional Transport Committee (RTC) has prepared a draft RLTS on behalf of Greater Wellington, with the assistance of a technical working group comprised of officers from Greater Wellington, New Zealand Transport Agency, territorial authorities in the region, NZ Police and Regional Public Health. More informal discussions were held with various interest groups in order ensure their views were taken onboard during development. Horizons Regional Council was also consulted on inter-regional issues and outcomes.

The technical working group believe that the changes to the RLTS are relatively minor and do not amount to a completely new strategy. The current RLTS was ‘refreshed’ with updated targets, more current data on pressures and issues, and new sections as required by the amended LTMA 2003.

3. Results from prior consultations

The current RLTS underwent several stages of public consultation during its multi-year development. There have also been numerous recent public consultations on corridor and implementation plans – namely the Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan and the Regional Walking, Cycling, Road Safety and Travel Demand Management Plans.

Early 2009 saw comprehensive public consultation on the Regional Land Transport Programme which included a mail-out to every household in the region. All these consultation processes report several consistent themes. One is a growing sense of consultation fatigue amongst the public of the region. Others include:

- Calls to ‘get on with’ implementation
- Strong support for public transport improvements
- Strong support for measures that reduce congestion
- Strong support for road safety measures, particularly for cycling and walking
- Calls to be proactive in preparing for climate change/peak oil
- Mixed support for large roading capital projects.

4. Legislative consultation requirements

As part of the development of the RLTS the RTC must take into account the views of affected communities (LTMA s76(c)) and of land transport providers (s76(d)). The RTC must also provide early and full opportunities for persons and organisations listed below to contribute to the development of the RLTS (s76(f)).

The consultation requirements for the RLTS are set out in sections 78 (1) – (4) of the amended LTMA 2003. When consulting the Regional Transport Committee must act in accordance with the consultation principles set out in section 82 and use the special consultation procedure under sections 83, 87(2)(a) and 89 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The amended LTMA 2003 also sets the requirement (s78(1)) that the following must be consulted:

- Adjoining regional councils and territorial authorities
- Approved organisations in the region
- Ministry of Transport
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Commissioner of Police
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust
- KiwiRail Ltd.
- Representative groups of land transport users and providers (including coastal shipping)
- Ministry of Health
- Accident Compensation Corporation
- District health boards in the region
- Affected communities
- Māori of the region
- Public of the region.

While the RTC is required to consult the public of the region, given consistent messages around consultation fatigue and in keeping with a strategy ‘refresh’, this consultation process will not involve a mail-out to every household.

5. Objectives

There are two broad objectives for the consultation plan:

- To engage stakeholders and the community on the draft RLTS
- To facilitate awareness and understanding of the RLTS so interested parties have the opportunity to make submissions.

This consultation plan aims to ensure good level of awareness of the RLTS refresh amongst stakeholders, interested parties and to a lesser extent the general public. It also seeks to provide the opportunity for those interested parties to provide formal input into the finalisation of the RLTS 2010 - 2040.

The draft RLTS potentially affects many people from throughout the region and neighbouring regional councils and territorial authorities. Anyone who is interested in being involved will be given the opportunity to do so.

This consultation plan will meet the LTMA section 78 as well as 76(c), (d) and (f) requirements.

6. Target Audiences

The key audiences are:

- Required parties identified in section 78(1) of the amended LTMA 2003
- Other interested parties identified through prior RLTS implementation plan and Annual Monitoring Report processes
- Residents and businesses of the region.

7. Consultation Timeframes

The proposed consultation timetable is therefore as follows:

Steps	Who	Timing
Draft RLTS to RTC for approval	RTC	2 December
Adopt consultation plan	RTC	2 December
Adopt summary document	RTC	2 December
Prepare consultation documents and other materials	GWRC	Dec - Jan
Public Notices in newspapers	GWRC	early Feb
Appoint Hearing Subcommittee	RTC	10 Feb
RTC calls for submissions on draft RLTS	RTC	early Feb / mid March
Hearing of submissions	RTC Hearing Subcommittee	late April
Changes to draft RLTS	GWRC	May
Final draft RLTS to RTC for approval	RTC	16 June
Adoption by GW	GW	29 June

8. Key Messages

The following key messages are proposed:

- The strategy is an updated 'refresh' that takes account of new legislative requirements, more recent land transport trends and changing Central Government policy direction.
- The strategy is a key tool for setting transport policy and priorities for regional land transport investment over the next 30 years. It will next be revised in 2016.
- The strategy is a high level document with objectives, outcomes, targets and policies. It is not project specific.
- The RLTS is closely aligned with the Wellington Regional Strategy and the Proposed Regional Policy Statement and will help shape transport infrastructure investment together with economic, social and environmental outcomes for the region.
- The long term aspiration of the Committee is to deliver an affordable, integrated, safe, efficient, resilient and sustainable transport network. The strategy will provide the framework for moving us towards this aspiration.
- Feedback is valuable in helping the Committee develop the final Strategy, which is expected to be adopted in June 2010.

9. Consultation Elements

The consultation will involve a submission process. Written and online submissions will be invited, with submitters then being given the opportunity to present their submissions orally. In order to provide the opportunity to submit the following communications tools will be used.

9.1 Direct communication with key parties

The external audiences we will communicate directly with are the required parties identified in section 78 of the amended LTMA 2003 and other prior identified interested parties.

The following parties will be mailed a full copy of the draft RLTS along with a covering letter:

- Territorial authorities within the region
- Adjoining regional councils and territorial authorities (Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council and Tararua District Council)
- Ministry of Transport
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Commissioner of Police
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust

- KiwiRail Ltd.
- Ministry of Health
- Accident Compensation Corporation
- District health boards in the region.

Greater Wellington has a database of interested parties, including Māori of the region, from prior consultation processes that will be updated to ensure the contact details are accurate. Each party in the database will receive:

- A covering letter,
- A draft RLTS summary document.

The covering letter will direct recipients to the full draft RLTS document provided on Greater Wellington's website in PDF form and state that physical copies are available if desired.

9.2 Public notices

Public notices (call for submissions and hearing notices) will be placed in the Dominion Post and all local community newspapers.

9.3 Web pages

Greater Wellington will provide a website on behalf of the RTC.

Greater Wellington's web page will include a link to the online submission form, along with the full draft RLTS, the summary document and any other background documents in PDF format. Links to other related web sites should also be provided. This will occur prior to commencement of the consultation period.

9.4 Media coverage

Media coverage will increase the draft RLTS' profile and with that, debate over its merits. When this occurs it is important a consistent view is conveyed. It is proposed that the Chair of the RTC act as the overall spokesperson for the draft RLTS.

The following media activity is planned to increase public awareness and to encourage feedback on the draft RLTS:

- a) A media release will be issued when the draft RLTS is released for consultation. The media release will include direct quotes from the RTC Chair. As well as usual outlets, a media release will be sent to organisations like the Automobile Association and other road transport users.
- b) Opinion pieces may be prepared for the Dominion Post and community papers for publication if deemed necessary.
- c) Article in GW's "Our Region" publication in the 'what we're consulting on' section.

- d) Ways will be investigated to have territorial authorities help increase awareness that the draft RLTS is up for consultation (e.g. Mayor Jenny Rowan's weekly opinion pieces in the Kapiti Observer).

During the consultation process media coverage is likely to involve letters to the editor, news stories and opinion pieces prompted by various advocates.

Following the close of submissions there is likely to be media activity around:

- Key conclusions resulting from submissions
- Adoption of the RLTS.

9.5 Public access to physical copies of the consultation documents

The draft RLTS and summary document will be available from the offices of Greater Wellington, public libraries throughout the region and any other relevant locations.

9.6 Meetings with Councils and other interested parties

Senior GW officers will make themselves available to talk with any interested parties or Councils during the consultation period. An offer will be extended to the region's Councils for the project group to attend Council meetings, should the respective Councils want this to occur.

9.7 Crossover with draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan

The draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan will be consulted on during the same period. Opportunities may exist in local Wairarapa outlets for media coverage of both draft documents to reference each other and encourage submission on both.