



Report 10.16
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Committee Transport & Access Committee
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Development of Regional Public Transport Plan and update on review of Regional Land Transport Strategy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- approve terms of reference for development of a Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) in accordance with the Public Transport Management Act 2008 (PTMA).
- provide an update on the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) and its relationship with the RPTP.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision 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

3.1 Regional Public Transport Plan

The Committee agreed in November 2008 “that the current passenger transport plan be reviewed during 2009/10 as part of a coordinated review of the regional land transport strategy which is also planned for this period” (**Report 08.854**). The purpose of the plan review is to prepare a RPTP in accordance with the new PTMA.

The PTMA was enacted in 2008 immediately prior to the general election. The Minister of Transport has since signalled an intention to review the PTMA with a particular focus on whether regional council powers to control or require contracted services should remain an option in public transport plans. Officers have had ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Transport regarding possible changes to the PTMA but legislative changes have not been implemented as quickly as initially indicated. Detail is expected shortly on the

proposed changes but given lead-in times any legislation is still some time away.

In expectation of relatively quick changes to the PTMA officers delayed development of the RPTP; however the changes have not occurred as quickly as expected and officers now believe we can wait no longer.

Reasons to prepare a RPTP now include allowing us to align it with the current review of the RLTS and the Wellington Public Transport Review and also to respond to a number of pressures including significant rail investment, new procurement procedures and changing funding priorities (under the Government Policy Statement on transport funding). The Committee was informed in November 2009 that preliminary work on a new RPTP had commenced (**Report 09.740**).

3.2 Regional Land Transport Strategy

The RPTP is now required by the PTMA to give effect to the public transport service components of the RLTS and must be adopted at the same time or soon as is reasonably practical after adoption of the RLTS.

The RLTS sets out a long-term vision of a sustainable transport system for the region and it contains objectives, policies, outcomes and targets to support progress towards achievement of that vision.

The RLTS is required to be renewed by July 2010. The process for the review and renewal of the RLTS commenced last year. The scope of the review and renewal has been mostly limited to meeting the content requirements of the amended Land Transport Management Act 2003 and extrapolating outcome targets across a longer timeframe.

4. Comment

4.1 Regional Public Transport Plan

The purpose of the RPTP (as set out in the PTMA) is to:

- specify how Greater Wellington will give effect to the public transport aspects of the RLTS; and
- contribute to achieving an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable land transport system.

The RPTP is a key tool in delivering one of the community outcomes set out in Greater Wellington's 10-Year Plan 2009-2019 – “a well-patronised public transport network that helps people get around the region easily and reduces road congestion”. The RPTP will set out the public transport objectives, policies and methods that Greater Wellington proposes to ensure the region can give effect to the RLTS and achieve this outcome.

The RPTP will primarily be an “update and realignment” of the policies in the existing Regional Passenger Transport Plan 2007 to better support the design

and development of an integrated public transport network and comply with the current legislative and policy environment.

The proposed timetable for preparing the RPTP is set out below. The timetable runs parallel to that to the RLTS and includes specific review points prior to each project phase. At each of the review points the project risks and issues (particularly those surrounding the potential changes to the PTMA) will be reviewed and their impact on project scope, resources and timeframes assessed.

Phase	Key actions	Date
Phase One: Project Scoping	Prepare and approve terms of reference	Nov-Feb 2010
Review Point: review project risks and issues prior to progressing to next phase		
Phase Two: Stakeholder Consultation	Prepare and approve discussion document for consultation	Feb-Mar 2010
	Consultation on discussion document	Mar-Apr 2010
Review project risks and issues prior to progressing to next phase		
Phase Three: Draft RPTP and Public Consultation	Prepare and approve draft RPTP for consultation	Apr-Jun 2010
	Consultation on draft RPTP and hearings	Jun-Jul 2010
Review Point: review project risks and issues prior to progressing to next phase		
Phase Four: Adoption of RPTP	Prepare and approve final RPTP	Jul-Sep 2010
	GW adopts the RPTP	28 Sep 2010

The first step in the RPTP development process is preparation of a discussion document. The draft discussion document will be prepared in February and the Committee will be asked to approve it at its 16 March 2010 meeting.

The RPTP terms of reference, for which approval from the Committee is sought, are set out in **Attachment 1**. The terms of reference provide further information on the timetable and content of the RPTP.

4.2 Regional Land Transport Strategy

As stated above, the scope of the RLTS review and renewal has focused on meeting new legislative requirements and reviewing the targets. The RPTP must give effect to the RLTS and therefore the changes to the RLTS and in particular changes to the public transport targets are of relevance.

The Regional Transport Committee has not yet agreed on the new targets but a workshop is to be held on 10 February 2010 to discuss revised targets and other matters.

Consultation on the draft RLTS is planned for March and April and the final RLTS is expected to be agreed by the RTC in June 2010.

5. **Communication**

Communication will be undertaken in accordance with the RPTP terms of reference.

6. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Agrees to the terms of reference for the development of the Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2010 set out in **Attachment 1**.***

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Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2010