

Report 11.462
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 Process

1. Purpose

This report outlines for the Committee changes to the 2012-15 Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) development process and timeline. It also includes updates on the prioritisation methodology.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2.1 Significance of the decision

No decision is being sought in this report.

This report is provided to inform the Committee of an ongoing process.

3. Background

The Land Transport Management Act 2003¹ (the Act) requires the Committee to prepare and consult on a RLTP every three years. It prescribes what the programme must contain and the process for its adoption.

In accordance with section 16 of the Act, the programme must contain all of the land transport activities that will occur within the region over the next ten years along with a statement of regional priorities and forecasts for the next three year period – 2012 to 2015.

The programme will set out the expected expenditure (approximately \$5 billion over 10 years) on the region's transport operations, maintenance and developments in increments of 3 + 3 + 4 year periods.

Under the Act, the final RLTP must be submitted by 30 April 2012 to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) unless the Minister approves a later date.

¹ As amended by the Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008.

NZTA must take account of regional priorities set out in a RLTP when making its funding decisions as part of the National Land Transport Programme development process.

The national Programme is where NZTA makes funding allocation decisions for the National Land Transport Fund. This Fund is used to pay for land transport projects and activities, certain Police activities, as well as planning and other administrative functions for land transport. The one exception is Treasury funding for some rail activities.

4. Timeline

Initially, the NZ Transport Agency wanted to receive an approved RLTP by 30 April 2012.

In response to submissions from regional councils and unitary authorities, the Minister has extended the timeline to submit the finalised RLTP out to 30 June 2012. This deadline is similar to the one that was for the last RLTP development round in 2009.

The change aligns the timelines for development, consultation and the decision making process of both the RLTP and Long Term Plans (LTP). This avoids duplicating work by councils and means that the RLTP and Greater Wellington's LTP are now intended to be sent out for consultation concurrently (March to April 2012).

A consultation plan for both the RLTP and LTP has not yet been developed. Therefore, the mechanism for how to consult on both documents at the same time is yet to be determined.

The following chart outlines the development process for the RLTP as agreed by the RLTP Technical Working Group (TWG).

Action	Who	When	Notes
Update on methodology and new RLTP timeline (this report)	RTC	26 Sep 2011	
<u>Endorse</u> prioritisation methodology developed by the TWG	RTC	Thu 27 Oct 2011	
<u>Workshop</u> on draft RLTP as recommended by TWG	RTC	Wed 7 Dec 2011	
<u>Agree</u> on draft RLTP	RTC	Mid Feb 2012	
<u>Approve</u> draft RLTP for consultation, <u>adopt</u> consultation plan and <u>appoint</u> hearing subcommittee	RTC	Early Mar 2012	LTP to be approved for consultation on 22 Mar 2012
Consultation on RLTP in parallel with GW's LTP	Officers	Mar/Apr 2012	LTP consultation during month of Apr 2012

Action	Who	When	Notes
Hear submissions (Hearing Subcommittee)	Hearing subcommittee	Late May 2012	
<u>Recommend</u> final RLTP for approval to GW for adoption	RTC	Mid Jun 2012	
<u>Approve</u> final RLTP	GW	Late Jun 2012	LTP adopted 27 Jun 2012
<u>Deadline</u> for submitting RLTP	Officers	30 Jun 2012	

5. Prioritisation methodology

A technical working group has been created to develop the prioritisation methodology for the 2012-15 RLTP. The TWG is comprised of officers from Greater Wellington and Territorial Authorities, along with NZTA.

The methodology for prioritising projects is included as **Attachment 1** to this report. It is based on the one used for the 2009-12 RLTP and has been simplified based on the experience of 2009.

It has been amended to better align with NZTA's own methodology for prioritising activities in the National Land Transport Programme. This alignment, as well as consulting alongside the LTP, avoids duplicating work and therefore reduces time and costs.

The main point of difference between NZTA's methodology and the proposed regional methodology is within the 'effectiveness' criterion. Policy 8.8.c of the RLTS defines the process to be used for prioritisation, including 'effectiveness'.

The RLTS defines 'effectiveness' as *the extent to which the package or project contributes to the broad policy objectives set out in the RLTS and the effectiveness of the project or package to deliver against the outcomes sought in the RLTS*. The NZ Transport Agency defines 'effectiveness' as achieving the potential identified in the 'strategic fit' assessment and contributing to the purpose and objectives of the Act.

NZTA has changed the criteria for second-priority funding from \$4.5 million (as in RLTS policy 8.8.b) to \$5 million. This moderate change is reflected in the new methodology. The TWG does not consider this to be a significant variation from the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

6. Communication

There is nothing to communicate from the consideration of this report. A plan for the RLTP consultation will be reported to the Committee for adoption in March.

7. Voting

Section 107 (1) of the Act states that objective and interest representatives have full speaking rights, but are not entitled to vote on matters related to regional land transport programmes. As the subject matter of this report relates to the regional land transport programme, objective and interest representatives **may not** vote on the resolutions.

8. Recommendations

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Endorses the prioritisation methodology as set out in Attachment 1 noting that it will continue to be refined by the Technical Working Group and reported back to the Committee in October 2011.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 prioritisation methodology