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Committee Council  
Authors Jane Davis, General Manager, Strategy and Community  
Engagement  
Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport

## Report on the Regional Transport Committee meeting, 4 March 2014

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Regional Transport Committee (the Committee) meeting of 4 March 2014.

### 2. Public presentation

Russell Tregonning, Fred MacDonald and Brent Efford all spoke to item 6 on the agenda – Review of the Regional Public Transport Plan.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 Recommendation of Wellington Public Transport Spine Options Hearing Subcommittee

The Committee discussed the recommendations of the Wellington Public Transport Spine Options Hearing Subcommittee (the Subcommittee). The Committee endorsed the recommendations, and expressed their support for Bus Rapid Transport as the preferred option for the Wellington Public Transport Spine.

The Committee discussed the benefits of Bus Rapid Transport, including higher capacity vehicles, greater bus priority, and the ability for vehicles to detour from the spine corridor to carry on to outer suburbs, providing greater network flexibility. It was also acknowledged that Bus Rapid Transport was an ideal option for developing a public transport route in Wellington that would be able to adapt to changes in technology and accommodate modes of transport made available in the future.

The Committee also compared the benefits of Bus Rapid Transport over light rail, including the ability to better service suburbs and areas outside the designated spine corridor (due to vehicles being able to leave the spine at designated areas rather than being attached to a defined rail route), greater flexibility in the wake of an emergency, and less disruption to residents during the construction period.

The Committee discussed the need to develop adequate parking along the region-wide public transport routes, to enable residents of Upper Hutt City, Hutt City, Porirua City, Wairarapa and Kapiti Coast to transfer to spine services efficiently.

The Committee thanked those involved with the work of the Subcommittee, and all of the submitters, for their contribution to the Spine Study.

### **3.2 Review of the Regional Public Transport Plan**

The Committee received a presentation on the Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) which is currently under review. The existing RPTP was adopted in 2011 but, due to changes to the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA) in 2011, a revised RPTP must now be adopted. The RPTP must provide a statement of the public transport services that are integral to the public transport network, and the policies, procedures, information and infrastructure that support those services.

The RPTP will encompass a collection of work undertaken in other forums including implementing the decisions of the Wellington City Bus Review, the Regional Rail Plan, the Fare Structure Review and the Wellington Public Transport Spine Study. Additional projects incorporated in the RPTP include the introduction of new bus, rail and ferry contracts, completing the expansion of the Matangi fleet, ongoing time table reviews and improving accessibility.

The Committee discussed the desire for engagement with the Region's Territorial Authorities (TAs) and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) on the RPTP, and the proposed timetable for its development and adoption. It was noted that a new RPTP must be adopted before Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) can procure any public transport services, and the Committee agreed that each TA and the NZTA would provide initial feedback to GWRC on the proposed RPTP before a draft is presented for adoption by GWRC on 19 March 2014.

The draft RPTP will be subject to public consultation between April and May 2014.

### **3.3 Development of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015-21**

The Committee received an overview on the development process of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015-21. Due to legislative changes to the LTMA in 2013, the existing planning documents (the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Regional Land Transport Programme) are to be consolidated into one document, the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

NZTA requires the new RLTP to be finalised by the end of April 2015, to feed into the next National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) which is to be adopted by 1 July 2015.

The policy framework for the RLTP was developed by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprising representatives from all the TAs in the region, GWRC and the NZTA. This TAG will also assist with the development of the RLTP over the next 18 months. The Committee members expressed their

desire to have input into the RLTP, and it was agreed that a workshop to discuss the RLTP objectives and targets would be scheduled for May 2014.

### **3.4 Regional Transport Targets Review**

The Committee received a presentation on the Regional Transport Targets Review. The new RLTP will be required to set measures (targets) for the ten years between 2015 and 2025. The current targets outlined in the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) will be extended to cover the period to 2025, and will also be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant and measurable.

The current RLTS identifies 21 outcomes or targets that the region wants to achieve. Progress in meeting the targets is reported regularly to the Committee.

The current targets are being reviewed against feedback from stakeholders and officers, SMART criteria, and a critical review by an external consultant. For each approved target area, the following will be provided to the Committee at the May workshop to inform discussions:

- an assessment of where we are now and influencing factors
- what growth (out to 2025) looks like based on historic trends
- predicted growth from WTSM (regional transport model), where applicable
- estimated impacts (where possible) from known projects and policies
- two options for target levels.

Following discussions at the Workshop, draft targets will be developed by officers and presented to the Committee at the August meeting to be agreed for inclusion in the draft RLTP. Targeted consultation will occur in September and October, with final targets scheduled to be presented to the Committee in October.

The Committee discussed the benefit of consideration by the region's councils of possible targets ahead of the RTC workshop, especially in relation to councils' existing targets.

### **3.5 NZ Transport Agency 2012-15 NLTP Mid-Term report for Wellington region**

Jenny Chetwynyd, NZTA, gave a brief update on the NZTA 2012-15 NLTP Mid-Term report for the Wellington region. The report is in the final stages of completion and will be distributed to Committee members once it has been finalised.

The Committee requested an update from NZTA on the Roads of National Significance projects and the issues facing the Wellington Region, in particular State Highway 58. It was agreed that an update would be provided at the Committee workshop in May 2014.

## **4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

## 5. Recommendations

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Jane Davis**  
General Manager, Strategy  
and Community Engagement

Report prepared by:

**Wayne Hastie**  
General Manager, Public  
Transport

Report approved by:

**Fran Wilde**  
Chair, Regional Transport  
Committee