

Report 14.634
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Committee Council
Authors Jane Davis, General Manager, Strategy and Community Engagement

Report on the Regional Transport Committee meeting, 2 December 2014

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Regional Transport Committee (the Committee) meeting of 2 December 2014.

2. Public presentation

Michael Barnett spoke to item 5 on the agenda - Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 for consultation. He asked that the committee consider extending the consultation period for the draft plan.

3. Reports

3.1 Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 for consultation

The Committee agreed the draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 (RLTP), which is to be released for consultation in January 2015. The draft RLTP has been prepared through a collaborative approach between the region's territorial authorities, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), via Technical Advisory Groups and a number of Committee workshops.

The Committee discussed the proposed consultation and engagement approach for the draft RLTP. It was noted that the tight consultation timeframe is driven by the requirement to finalise and submit a RLTP to the NZTA by April 2015, to enable NZTA to put together the National Land Transport Programme and allocate funding from July onwards. An earlier start date has not been possible, as the draft RLTP needed to take into account the likely provisions in the long-term plans of the region's local authorities, which are currently being developed. The Committee agreed to investigate if it could push the 2 day hearings on the draft RLTP (scheduled for 2-3 March 2015) out by a week, to enable a longer consultation period.

The Committee discussed the Significant Activities outlined in the draft RLTP, which are large, new improvement projects forecasted to cost in excess of \$5 million. The Committee had previously examined these and ranked them in priority order. It was noted that it will be important to communicate in the draft



RLTP that these Significant Activities will be funded from different “activity class” budgets in the National Land Transport Fund and, therefore, the prioritisation of one activity will not necessarily directly impact the funding available to another. Officers agreed to clarify which activities receive funding from the same sources in the finalised draft RLTP.

The Committee agreed that it is important to ensure each local authority’s Long-Term Plan, in particular their budgeted activities, align with the draft RLTP, to ensure cohesiveness across the region’s plans.

The Committee also discussed the \$100 million that has been made available by central government over the next four years to accelerate cycleways in urban centres. It was agreed that the Committee would write to the region’s local authorities requesting that they review the timing and scale of their cycleway proposals to maximise access to the Urban Cycling Fund.

The Committee noted that the Mount Victoria Tunnel Fire Safety Improvements project in the Significant Projects list has recently been approved by the NZTA Board for completion in 2014, and it has thus become a Committed Activity in the programme with current funding provisions, rather than a proposed Significant Activity. The Committee agreed to move the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) activity up into the 4th priority position on the ranking table to replace the Mt Victoria Fire Safety project.

3.2 Establishment of Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 Hearing Subcommittee

The Committee established a Subcommittee to consider and hear submissions on the draft RLTP.

3.3 Proposed variation to the Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 2015: SH58 Safety Improvements

The Committee discussed a proposed variation to the current Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015 which was requested by the NZTA. The variation is to include the design stage of a new activity called ‘SH58 Safety Improvements’ within the final year of the current three year programme.

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 approved by:

Fran Wilde
Chair, Regional Transport
Committee