

Report No.	19-188
Information Only - No Decision Required	

REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS, MEMBERSHIP AND KEY WORK PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To provide Members with an overview of the Regional Transport Committee's functions, the key roles of the Transport Services team, and to provide information on existing and planned work programmes.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-188 and Annex.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. None required.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant risk to the business from this report.

6. REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1. Regional Councils are required under the **Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA)** to establish a **Regional Transport Committee (RTC)** as soon as practicable after each triennial election.
- 6.2. The LTMA sets out the functions of the RTC, which are:
 - To prepare a regional land transport plan, and any necessary variations for approval by the Regional Council;
 - To provide the Regional Council with any advice and assistance the regional council may request in relation to its transport responsibilities.
- 6.3. Section 105(2) of the LTMA sets out the membership requirements for the RTC. These include:
 - Two regional councillors
 - One representative from each territorial authority in the region; and
 - One representative of the **New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA)**.
- 6.4. In addition to the legislated function, Horizons' terms of reference for the RTC sets out a number of operating objectives. The RTC terms of reference for this triennium were approved at Horizons' 22 October 2019 Regional Council meeting and are appended to this item as Annex A.

- 6.5. Advisory membership that represents a range of transport users, covering all land transport modes, as well as road safety can also be included. The advisory members/group users have speaking rights at meetings but are not able to vote.

7. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK AND DOCUMENTS

- 7.1. **Land Transport Management Act 2003:** sets the statutory framework for planning and funding land transport activities. A number of key statutory documents relating to this Committee's work are detailed in the LTMA.
- 7.2. **Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Land Transport:** issued by the Minister of Transport every three years and outlines the government's priorities and outcomes sought for the land transport sector. The GPS sets out how much money will be allocated to each activity class (public transport, road safety, local road improvements, state highway maintenance, rail etc.) for a period of ten years. The current GPS took effect on 1 July 2018. More information on the GPS can be found at the Ministry of Transport website, www.transport.govt.nz.
- 7.3. **Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP):** Sets the strategic direction for land transport for the region. Required to be prepared every six years with a review in year three. The current RLTP was adopted in 2015 and a review completed and adopted in June 2018 (named RLTP 2015-25 (2018 Review)). Further detail on the RLTP is provided in a separate agenda item.

8. KEY GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

- 8.1. **Regional Advisory Group (RAG):** This group includes transport officers from Horizons Regional Council, the seven territorial authorities and the NZ Transport Agency (both the state highways and planning/funding divisions). The RAG provides technical support and advice to the RTC and liaises with neighbouring regions and districts as well as the Central Government agencies such as the Ministry of Transport, NZ Transport Agency, Commissioner of Police etc.

The RAG generally meets every quarter, with meetings scheduled for one month prior to each RTC meeting.

- 8.2. **Accessing Central New Zealand (ACNZ):** This is a governance group which has been tasked with overseeing projects that give life to the distribution and transport enabler of the Accelerate25 Action Plan. This group operates as a sub-group of the RTC and membership includes mayors, councillors and council staff from all areas of the region as well as key stakeholders such as the NZ Transport Agency and Spearhead.

The focus of ACNZ is to enable a connected, safe, resilient and cohesive transport network to, from and within the Horizons Region. The map below shows these corridors and the associated key projects currently on the radar for ACNZ.



- 8.3. **Passenger Transport Committee (PTC):** This committee operates alongside the RTC. The committee meets around three times per year, covering patronage on all passenger transport services, service / fare reviews, new service investigations and retendering of bus service contracts, health shuttles, and total mobility scheme updates.
- 8.4. While the RTC does not immediately deal with passenger services issues, this Committee may time to time have items that are passenger service related.
- 8.5. **Passenger Transport Advisory Groups:** There are three advisory groups currently established as sub-groups of the passenger transport committee. The purpose of these groups is to provide guidance and inform reviews, infrastructure updates and monitor service performance of key services. The advisory groups consist of members at a political and staff level from Horizons and the relevant territorial authorities as well as a NZ Transport Agency representative. At present there are advisory groups for the Whanganui, Palmerston North urban (including Massey) and Feilding bus services.

9. ROAD SAFETY FUNCTION

- 9.1. Horizons Regional Council employs road safety coordinators on behalf of all the territorial authorities in the region to provide road safety education and promotion.
- 9.2. The provision of this service ties in with road safety enforcement and engineering activities undertaken by the New Zealand Police, NZ Transport Agency, and territorial authorities.
- 9.3. There are currently three coordinators overseeing road safety education in six of the seven territorial authorities in the region. In Ruapehu, the district council is currently contracted to provide some road safety advertising.
- 9.4. The coordinators' work is determined by the road safety issues that are identified by the national road safety strategy, Safer Journeys 2020; NZTA's road safety issues reports and the Communities at Risk register. Examples of the issues that the co-ordinators focus on

are alcohol and drugs, young and high risk drivers, speed, fatigue, motorcyclists, distractions, older drivers and vulnerable road users (cyclists and pedestrians). Each district has differing issues depending on crash statistics and data.

- 9.5. The coordinators work closely with road safety partners such as the New Zealand Police, NZ Transport Agency, territorial authorities, ACC and public health. The work undertaken by the coordinators is reported to the RTC twice yearly, generally at the March and September meetings.
- 9.6. Some road safety education work is not undertaken by the coordinators and is instead contracted out to community providers. Every year applications are sought to undertake work that targets a road safety issue. Applications are then scrutinised by a funding group, which consists of the coordinators and NZTA. NZTA fund these programmes at the regional road safety education FAR of 64% and the providers must find the local share themselves through other funding sources.

10. KEY WORK PROGRAMMES

- 10.1. The following is a list of key work programmes that transport officers predict will be reported on to the Committee over the next financial year:
- GPS updates: continued involvement at a strategic level to submit or comment on any amendments to the current GPS.
 - RLTP six yearly update: A new RLTP is due to be prepared by 2021. Planning and development for the new RLTP is due to commence in early 2020 with a timeline being provided at the March 2020 RTC meeting.
 - ACNZ work stream: a number of key projects are planned as part of the ACNZ portfolio. These are outlined in the map above.
 - Inter-regional Passenger Rail – Part of Accessing Central New Zealand and a work stream in partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council looking at securing new rolling stock and additional daily services between the Horizons and Wellington regions.

11. REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 11.1. The RTC generally meets at 10.30 am on the first Tuesday or Wednesday of March, June, September and December.
- 11.2. RTC meeting dates for 2020 are:
- Tuesday 3 March 2020;
 - Wednesday 3 June 2020;
 - Tuesday 1 September 2020;
 - Tuesday 1 December 2020.

Additional meetings or workshops may be scheduled if required.

12. SIGNIFICANCE

- 12.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Leana Shirley
SENIOR TRANSPORT PLANNER

Phillip Hindrup
MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

ANNEXES

- A Regional Transport Committee Terms of Reference