



Minutes of the tenth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Regional Transport Committee held at 2.04pm on Tuesday 2 March 2010, in the Council Chambers, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North.

PRESENT

Crs EB Gordon (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh, GP Murfitt, Mayor B Duffy (Horowhenua District Council), Mayor S Morris (Ruapehu District Council), Cr G Cruden (Palmerston North City Council), Cr M Bell (Manawatu District Council), Cr D Brown (Rangitikei District Council), Ms L Tamehana (Public Health), Dr C Cheyne (Environmental Sustainability), Mr R Forgie (Economic Development from 2.15pm), Ms J Chetwynd (New Zealand Transport Agency), and Inspector N Wynne (New Zealand Police).

IN ATTENDANCE

Group Manager Regional Services Mr GP Shirley
and Information
Manager Transport Services Ms A Redgrave
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

Crs L Bailey, A Main, P Rieger, M Plowman, Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr R Hayward (KiwiRail), Mr W Furner (Ruapehu District Council), Ms L Jackson (Manawatu Standard), and various other interested groups.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mayor Maureen Reynolds, (Taranua District Council), Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), and Mr R Smith (Access and Mobility).

RT 10-97

Moved

Duffy/Bell

*that the Committee **accepts** the apologies of Mayor Reynolds, Cr Anderson, and Mr Smith.*

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RT 10-98

Moved

Duffy/Crudan

that the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee held on 1 December 2009, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Passenger Transport Subcommittee Meeting – 16 February 2010

RT 10-99

Moved

Chettleburgh/Duffy

that the Minutes of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 16 February 2010, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME VARIATIONS

Report No. 10-21

This report sought approval for a variation to the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) for the purpose of allowing inclusion of the varied activities in the National Land Transport Programme.

The Chairman outlined his views around the operating functions of the Regional Transport Committee to adequately approve roading improvements and infrastructure. He believed some of the proposed state highway improvements were not a top priority and that the Committee should be given the opportunity to prioritise how and where the funding could be best spent, eg. asset management funds for Wanganui District Council. Ms Chetwynd explained that the activities were separate and funds could not be transferred between the two. Cr Bell voiced his displeasure at the level of funds available for state highway activity as compared to available funds for other activities. Ms Chetwynd further explained that the Government Policy Statement determined the range of spend for each activity.

RT 10-100

Moved

Duffy/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on Regional Land Transport Programme variations;
- b. **agrees** that further phases of the generic state highway improvement projects outlined in Annex A be included in the Regional Land Transport Programme; and
- c. **requests** that the Chief Executive prepare a variation of the Regional Land Transport Programme in accordance with Section 18D of the Land Transport Management Act.

CARRIED

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY REVIEW

Report No: 10-22

This report was to:

- a. inform Members on progress with the development of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS);
- b. determine a vision and set of objectives for the strategy; and
- c. inform Members on progress with the Palmerston North Manawatu Joint Strategic Transport Study.

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) spoke to the item and highlighted the key points.

There was discussion around the level of detail contained within the objectives and whether it was enough to clearly define significant factors relating to the Region.

As a representative for environmental sustainability, Dr Cheyne requested that the cultural values and the environmental objectives listed under Objective 5 be split into two separate objectives. She suggested a new Objective 6 as: *a transport system that ensures good environmental outcomes.*

Cr Cruden commented that although the environment and cultural values were important, he was not in favour of the amendment. He believed environmental sustainability was already well represented in the objectives. He complimented Horizons' staff on a well presented document and believed that the number of objectives should be kept at five.

RT 10-101

Moved

Cheyne/Duffy

removes environmental outcomes from Objective 5 and creates a new objective, Objective 6 – a transport system that ensures good environmental outcomes.

LOST

Members continued with consideration of the report and commented on points of interest. The resolutions were discussed and it was agreed that they be separated.

RT 10-102

Moved

Bell/Morris

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the update on progress with the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Palmerston North Manawatu Joint Strategic Transport Study.*

CARRIED

In regard to Objective 1, Cr Chettleburgh believed that Palmerston North City should be inserted as being the 'hub' of the Region, and moved a resolution to that effect, seconded by Cr Bell.

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bell

inserts Palmerston North City as being the natural hub of the Region under Objective 1.

The MTS explained that reference to the 'hub' in Objective 1 included the whole Region as being in the centre of the North Island. Several Members voiced their opposition to the resolution. Cr Bell then withdrew as seconder of the resolution. The resolution lapsed as there was no seconder.

RT 10-103

Moved

Bell/Morris

- b. **approves** the recommended vision statement and objectives for the revised Regional Land Transport Strategy

CARRIED

CAPITAL CONNECTION TRAIN SERVICES

Report No. 10-27

This report updated Members about recent discussions on the future of the Capital Connection train service.

Mr Hayward, General Manager, Passenger Services, Kiwirail gave an updated presentation on the Capital Connection service between Wellington and Palmerston North. The presentation elaborated on potential options available should patronage for the service decline. Members considered the presentation and ultimately suggested that a subcommittee be appointed to investigate possible options for operating a continued passenger service between Wellington and Palmerston North.

RT 10-104

Moved

Duffy/Gordon

that a Subcommittee comprising of: Mayor Duffy, Mr Forgie, Cr Chettleburgh, and Cr Bell be appointed to investigate options for operating a continued passenger service between Wellington and Palmerston North.

CARRIED

RT 10-105

Moved

Duffy/Cruden

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the Capital Connection rail service between Palmerston North and Wellington.

CARRIED

CENTRAL REGION FREIGHT ANALYSIS REPORT

Report No. 10-26

This report provided Members with a summary of findings from the New Zealand Transport Agency Central Region Freight Analysis report.

The Manager Transport Services summarised and highlighted the key findings outlined in the report on behalf of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

The NZTA was congratulated on providing an indepth and detailed report. Members sought clarification on points of interest and were advised to alert Ms Chetwynd of any corrections required.

RT 10-106

Moved

Chettleburgh/Brown

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the New Zealand Transport Agency Central Region Freight Analysis.

CARRIED

DRAFT WAIRARAPA CORRIDOR PLAN

Report No: 10-28

This report was to decide on a submission to the Greater Wellington region's draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan.

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) introduced the item. There was discussion around the uncertainty for the long term future of the rail network south of Masterton. Mr Hayward, Kiwirail advised that all freight lines were currently being reviewed.

Members considered points in the submission and asked questions of clarification. There were no amendments made to the submission but it was noted in paragraph six "...rail network north of Masterton" should read "...rail network south of Masterton".

RT 10-107

Moved

Bell/Cruden

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan; and
- b. **approves** the draft submission on the Plan.

CARRIED

NEW ZEALAND CYCLEWAY PROJECT

Mr Furner (Ruapehu District Council) updated Members on progress with the New Zealand Cycleway proposal announced by Prime Minister John Key as part of the job summit. Mayor Morris commented that it was an exciting project for Ruapehu and provided an enormous confidence boost to the Region.

VEHICLE DIMENSION AND MASS RULE

Ms Chetwynd updated Members on the key proposed changes to the rules around vehicle dimension on local roads and State Highways. Members asked questions of clarification on points of interest, and in particular questioned the potential financial burden which would be incurred by ratepayers for additional road maintenance.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Inspector Wynne, New Zealand Police gave an update on road fatalities in the Region.

Mr Forgie, Economic Development apologised for his late arrival.

Resignation of Mr R Smith – representative for Access and Mobility

The Chairman read out the contents of a letter from Mr Smith, Access and Mobility. The letter outlined Mr Smith's comments on items contained in the agenda and also tendered his resignation from the Committee due to ill health.

RT 10-108

Moved

Gordon/Murfitt

*that the Regional Transport Committee **writes** to Mr Smith and **thanks** him for his services.*

CARRIED

Retirement of Mr Christiansen – New Zealand Transport Agency

The Chair thanked Mr Christiansen for his input and efforts over many years to the Regional Transport Committee.

Mr Christiansen thanked the Committee for their contribution and support over the years, in particular, the contribution of Ms Anne Redgrave, Manager Transport Services.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Confirmed.

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN