



Minutes of the third meeting, eighth triennium, of the Regional Transport Committee held at 10.03am on Tuesday 7 June 2011, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council offices, 11 – 15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs EB Gordon (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh, Mayor B Duffy (Horowhenua District Council from 10.07am), Mayor R Ellis (Tararua District Council), Mayor I McKelvie (Manawatu District Council), Mayor C Leary (Rangitikei District Council), Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), Cr J Jefferies (Palmerston North City Council), Mr N Fitzpatrick (Public Health), Ms J Chetwynd (New Zealand Transport Agency), Ms J Stevenson (Cultural Interests), Inspector N Wynne (New Zealand Police).

IN ATTENDANCE Manager Transport Services Ms A Redgrave
Committee Secretaries Ms G McRae
Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Cr PW Rieger, Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner).

At various times during the meeting:

Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services), Ms J Archer (Communications and Promotion Officer), Ms D Hume (KiwiRail), Ms E Shaw (Ministry of Transport), Ms J Draper (New Zealand Transport Agency), Ms D Myers (New Zealand Transport Agency), Mr D McGonigal (New Zealand Transport Agency), Mr G Goodman (Palmerston North Airport Ltd), Cr C Teo-Sherrell (Palmerston North City Council), Mr J Beard (member of the public) and various interested groups.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mayor S Morris (Ruapehu District Council), Mr R Coles (Access and Mobility), and Mr D Hoskin (Economic Development).

RT 11-17

Moved

Chetwynd/Chettleburgh

*that the Committee **accepts** the apologies of Mayor Morris, Mr Coles, and Mr Hoskin.*

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RT 11-18

Moved

Jefferies/Chettleburgh

that the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee held on 1 March 2011, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record with the addition of Councillor C Teo-Sherrell (Palmerston North City Council) as present.

CARRIED

UPDATE ON RAIL INVESTIGATION

Report No. 11-91

This report was to update Members on the rail investigation initiated in 2010, and introduced a presentation by KiwiRail on the latest developments with the Wellington metro train services and their concomitant effect on the Capital Connection commuter rail services.

Mayor Duffy joined the meeting at 10.07am.

Ms D Hume, from KiwiRail made a presentation to the Committee noting that the organisation was monitoring patronage on the service and outlining to committee members the variability in patronage week to week. She acknowledged that the Committee had a strategic interest in the service continuing but noted that the service had to remain commercially viable for KiwiRail to continue. She reassured committee members that KiwiRail had made no decisions regarding the continuation of the service and that it continued to be monitored. She noted that there had been some impact on patronage due to the Waikanae upgrade but there were presently no concerns for its immediate future. The next challenge to patronage would be with the introduction of the Matangi trains. Ms Hume took questions from the Committee regarding the Rugby World Cup and scenic services.

RT 11-19

Moved

Duffy/Anderson

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report into the update on the rail investigation; and*
- b. **instructs** the Chief Executive to put any further investigation on hold indefinitely.*

CARRIED

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME 2012-15

Report No. 11-92

This report sought Members' agreement to the timetable and programme for development of the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP/the programme) for 2012-15; informed Members of the proposed direction for the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding (GPS) 2012-13 – 2021-22; and updated Members on progress with implementation of the Palmerston North-Manawatu Joint Transport Study.

The Transport Planner gave an overview of the report, primarily outlining the time-frames required to meet deadlines for incorporation into the New Zealand Transport Agency's National Land Transport Programme. She noted that these did not easily complement the Councils' Long

Term Planning processes and requested that Mayors and Councillors present ensure that their bodies were aware of this conflict and able to plan accordingly. She noted that the Government Policy Statement, to be released in July, would outline the key priorities for Government in this area.

There was discussion regarding consultation, the fairness regarding transport funding distribution nationally and the difficulties posed by the timetable for territorial authorities consulting on their Long Term Plans and public confusion that may arise.

RT 11-20

Moved

Duffy/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 11-92 Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) 2012-15;
- b. **approves** the timetable for development of the Regional Land Transport Programme;
- c. **asks** local authority members to advise their councils of the timeframes for the RLTP preparation as outlined in paragraphs 13-16 and Annex B:
 13. *The programme development process will involve both the Regional Transport Committee and its supporting technical Regional Advisory Group (RAG), which is largely composed of transport staff from the regional, city and district councils, and New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).*
 14. *The first RAG meeting is scheduled for late May followed by another meeting after the release of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding (GPS) 2012-13 – 2021-22 in July. Officers will develop the policy on significance and a proposed prioritisation process for Members to approve at the September meeting.*
 15. *Members and supporting officers should be aware that each council is required to submit their individual land transport programme to NZTA by 30 September 2011 and should begin preparations for this immediately. It is recommended that Members communicate this requirement to their respective councils as soon as possible.*
 16. *Councils also should be aware that the draft RLTP will be released for public consultation in December 2011, which may be prior to confirmation of local authority draft Long Term Council Community Plan activities.*

Timeline for Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-12 Development

2011	March	NZTA workshop with all approved organisations to outline changes to RLTP requirements.
	April	
	May	25 May RAG meeting : Confirm significance policy and prioritisation process
	June	
	July	GPS 2012 released. All approved organisations commence drafting activity lists.
	August	Early August RAG meeting : Discuss implication of GPS and draft projects. All approved organisations refine lists of activities for submission to NZTA by 30 September .
	September	7 September RTC meeting : Sign off prioritisation process and significance policy, discuss implications of GPS and draft activities. 30 September : All Approved Organisation programmes must be submitted to NZTA.
	October	Early October RAG meeting : Commence prioritisation of activities. Liaison with NZTA over draft programme.
	November	
	December	6 December RTC meeting : Approve draft RLTP for consultation.
2012	January	Public consultation period.
	February	
	March	6 March RTC meeting : Hearing of submissions (two days if required). Mid-March RAG meeting : Prepare officer's response to submissions.
	April	Special RTC meeting : Consider and recommend RLTP for adoption. (by) 30 April : Regional Council adopts RLTP.
	May	
	June	
	July	RLTP implementation commences

CARRIED

NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT UPDATE

Report No. 11-93

This report updated Members on New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and Ministry of Transport (MoT) regional and national activities.

Ms Shaw (Principal Adviser External Relations and Communications, Ministry of Transport) provided a verbal update on recent MoT activities. She discussed the Safer Journeys projects and directed Committee members to the Ministry of Transport website for further information and updates. Ms Shaw also spoke regarding the Government Policy Statement noting that approximately 530 submissions commenting on the statement had been received.

Ms Draper (Senior Transport Planner, New Zealand Transport Agency) spoke regarding the Roads of National Significance project, specifically the Otaki – North of Levin section of state highway. She outlined for Committee members the process that would be followed (ACRE: area, corridor, route and easement) noting that they were at the ‘area’ stage – meeting with stakeholders and learning about the area with the intention of reaching the ‘easement’ stage (lodging a consent) in June-July 2013. Ms Draper expected that public consultation would take place once possible corridors had been identified, probably early next year.

Ms Myers (Regional Manager, Planning and Investment, New Zealand Transport Agency) made a presentation detailing planning and investment. There was significant discussion regarding the Financial Assistance Rate reviews and whether this was a fair mechanism to allocate funding, including whether it appropriately acknowledged the productivity and contribution of rural regions in the national context. Ms Myers noted the concerns and discussion of the Committee.

Mr McGonigal (State Highway Manager - Manawatu, New Zealand Transport Agency) provided an update on state highway projects in the Region. Concerns regarding the prioritisation and subsequent deferral of the Manawatu Hill project were noted, as well as concerns regarding intersections and the location of stock effluent disposal facilities.

Members asked questions of clarification.

RT 11-21

Moved

Duffy/Fitzpatrick

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-93.

CARRIED

The Chair advised that the Palmerston North Airport Limited Update would be addressed next, as Mr Goodman had arrived and was available to speak. There were no objections.

PALMERSTON NORTH AIRPORT LIMITED UPDATE

Report No. 11-95

This report updated Members on Palmerston North Airport Limited's current issues and strategic direction.

Mr Goodman (Chief Executive Officer, Palmerston North Airport Ltd) addressed the Committee, noting that the airport was still working to find an international carrier. He reinforced that the airport still had the capacity and facilities to accommodate an international airline and that the airport was working together with territorial authorities to jointly market the Region to potential carriers. Mr Goodman commended progress on the bus service between Palmerston North and Feilding, reinforcing the airport's willingness to participate in the integration of public transport services. He referred to the future designation of Milson Line and said he was keen to see certainty regarding the changes. He believed that priority should be given to utilising alternative routes, thereby directing traffic away from Milson Line. Mr Goodman was available to answer Members' questions.

RT 11-22

Moved

Gordon/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the update on Palmerston North Airport Limited matters.

CARRIED

ROAD SAFETY REPORT

Report No. 11-94

This report informed Members about recent road safety education activities undertaken by Horizons road safety coordinators; and the Safer Journeys Action Plan 2011-12.

The Manager, Transport Services outlined the contents of the report and noted the zero road toll over the recent holiday weekend. She noted that the Region's road toll was down on the previous year and responded to questions regarding cycling in the Region and age-related driving accident statistics.

RT 11-23

Moved

Chettleburgh/Leary

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report into road safety education activities and the Safer Journeys Action Plan 2011-12.

CARRIED

SUBMISSION TO GREATER WELLINGTON DRAFT REGIONAL FREIGHT PLAN

Report No. 11-96

This report informed Members of a submission made on the Committee's behalf to the Greater Wellington Regional Council Draft Regional Freight Plan.

RT 11-24

Moved

Jefferies/Ellis

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the submission made to the Greater Wellington Regional Council's draft Regional Freight Plan.

CARRIED

VEHICLE DIMENSION AND MASS AMENDMENT RULE UPDATE

Report No. 11-97

This report updated Members on progress with the implementation of the Vehicle Dimension and Mass Amendment Rule.

RT 11-25

Moved

Duffy/Stevenson

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the update of the Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Amendment Rule implementation.

CARRIED

PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

The Chair indicated that there was no longer any reason for the minutes of the meeting on 1 March 2011 to remain public excluded and that these could be approved in the public forum. There were no objections.

RT 11-26

Moved

Gordon/Chettleburgh

That the public excluded minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 1 March 2011 be released and considered in the public forum as the reasons under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 no longer applied.

CARRIED

RT 11-27

Moved

Duffy/Chettleburgh

*That the **formerly** public excluded minutes of the Regional Transport Committee held on 1 March 2011, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Inspector Wynne gave an update on the reduced road toll and current road statistics. He encouraged members to look at the Safer Journeys document that had been referred to earlier in the meeting. He commended the road safety coordinators for doing an excellent job.

The Chairman noted that he had attended the Transport NZ Summit and Expo 2011 from 1 – 2 June in Auckland. He regretted that there was not enough time to share some of the presentations with the Committee as he had intended, but noted he would provide Committee members with a web-link to the documents. Cr Gordon also congratulated Mayor McKelvie on his National Party nomination to represent the Rangitikei district.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 12.07pm.

Confirmed.

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN