



Report of the second meeting, eighth triennium, of the Regional Transport Committee held at 10.02am on Tuesday 1 March 2010, in the Council Chambers, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North.

PRESENT

Crs EB Gordon (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh, Mayor R Ellis (Taranaki District Council), Mayor I McKelvie (Manawatu District Council), Mayor C Leary (Rangitikei District Council from 10.13am), Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council to 12.15pm), Cr J Jefferies (Palmerston North City Council), Mr R Forgie (Environmental Sustainability), Mr N Fitzpatrick (Public Health), Ms J Chetwynd (New Zealand Transport Agency), Ms J Stevenson (Cultural Interests from 10.13am), Mr R Coles (Access & Mobility), Senior Sergeant K Burbery (Safety and Personal Security), Mr D Hoskin (Economic Development).

IN ATTENDANCE

Manager Transport Services	Ms A Redgrave
Committee Secretary	Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

At various times during the meeting:
Crs PW Rieger, G Cox, C Sheldon, Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services), Mr L Hammond (New Zealand Transport Agency), Mr R Leitao (Wanganui District Council), Ms B O'Shaughnessy (Opus Consultants), Cr K Ngatai (Ruapehu District Council), Mr W Furner (Ruapehu District Council), Cr C Teo-Sherrell (Palmerston North City Council), various interested groups, Deputation: Mr F MacDonald, Mr B Meinders, and Mrs D Brown.

The Chairman welcomed Cr Jefferies as the new representative for Palmerston North City Council.

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mayor Duffy (Horowhenua District Council).

RT 11-10

Moved

McKelvie/Chettleburgh

*that the Committee **accepts** the apology of Mayor Duffy.*

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items notified.

The Chairman advised that Mr W Furner, Ruapehu District Council would address the Committee later in the meeting about the KiwiRail Overlander Passenger Service.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RT 11-11

Moved

Chettleburgh/Anderson

that the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee held on 7 December 2010, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

DEPUTATION

Mr MacDonald had requested and been granted deputation rights. Mr MacDonald and Mr Bert Meinder represented the Otaki Road Safety Group. Mrs Diane Brown was present as a support person.

Mr Meinder outlined the need for a regular and frequent rail passenger service between Wellington and Palmerston North. He spoke about the funding required for such an investment and the need to apply pressure on central government to look at extending the electrification of passenger rail services to Palmerston North.

Mr MacDonald spoke about the role of the Otaki Road Safety Group and the need to work closely with road safety coordinators and connect with other organisations involved in passenger transport and road safety in the community. He also spoke about the threat to the Capital Connection rail service with the improved rail commuter service now completed through to Waikanae.

Members asked questions of clarification.

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

Report No. 11-28

This report sought Members' agreement to the timetable and programme for development of the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) for 2012-15.

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) expanded on the draft timeline for the development of the programme. Ms Chetwynd, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) indicated that some of the timeframes for final adoption of the RLTP would need to be adjusted to fit in with NZTA requirements. The Chairman advised that the timetable would be updated and presented at the next Regional Transport Committee meeting. Accordingly, recommendation (b) was altered.

RT 11-12

Moved

Chettleburgh/Forge

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the process for development of the Regional Land Transport Programme; and
- b. **agrees** to update the draft timetable for development of the Regional Land Transport Programme and present to the next Regional Transport Committee meeting.

CARRIED

WANGANUI URBAN TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY UPDATE

Report No. 11-31

This report informed Members of progress in the development of the Wanganui Urban Transportation Strategy (WUTS).

The Transport Planner noted an apology from Julian Reweti, Wanganui District Council.

Mr Rui Leitao, Wanganui District Council with the assistance of Ms Brenda O'Shaughnessy, Opus Consultants, delivered a presentation on the development of the Strategy.

Mr Leitao thanked Mr W Wallace, Transport Planner, Horizons Regional Council for his involvement and input into the Strategy.

Members asked questions of clarification. The Chairman thanked Mr Leitao and Ms O'Shaughnessy for providing an impressive presentation.

Cr Anderson, Wanganui District Council (WDC) conveyed on behalf of Mayor Main, WDC, disappointment at the absence of Horizons Regional Council Councillors at the full presentation of the Strategy provided on Thursday 24 February. Cr Chettleburgh said he had submitted an apology for his absence. The Chairman advised that an invitation to attend the presentation had been extended to Passenger Transport Committee members only.

RT 11-13

Moved

McKelvie/Anderson

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the update on the Wanganui Urban Transportation Strategy.

CARRIED

NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report No. 11-30

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

Ms Chetwynd referred to her report and expanded on areas of interest. Cr Anderson, Wanganui District Council expressed disappointment at the decision to close the NZTA Wanganui Office and outlined concerns about the significant financial impact the decision would have on current staff and their families. He believed the working relationship between NZTA and the Wanganui District Council had been damaged as a result of the decision. Accordingly he indicated he would be voting against receipt of the report.

Mr Hammond, Planning and Investment Manager, NZTA provided a presentation which updated the regional and national progress in delivery of the 2009-12 National Land Transport Programme. Members considered the presentation and asked questions of clarification. The Manager Transport Services asked for clarification about timeframes for the final adoption of the 2012 Regional Land Transport Programme. Several Members commented on the impacts to funding levels through a possible redirection of funding priorities due to the Christchurch earthquake.

Ms Chetwynd acknowledged the concerns raised by Cr Anderson about the decision to close the NZTA Wanganui office. She responded by saying there would be benefits gained through an improved level of service provided by relocating the office to Palmerston North. She believed it was important to have and maintain a good working relationship between NZTA staff and Regional Transport Committee members.

RT 11-14

Moved

Leary/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. **receives** the Regional Director's update report.

Against: Cr Anderson

CARRIED

NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY NATIONAL DRAFT STATE HIGHWAY CLASSIFICATION

Report No. 11-29

This report informed Members of the New Zealand Transport Agency proposed State Highway classification system

The Transport Planner spoke to the report and expanded on areas of interest.

Mr Hammond, Planning and Investment Manager, NZTA provided a presentation which expanded on the history of the State Highway Classification system and explained the functions and benefits to be gained through the introduction of a new State Highway Classification system.

Mr Leitao, Wanganui District Council believed that the indicative classification of 'Regional Strategic' awarded to SH3 route through to New Plymouth, deserved a higher priority. He asked that consideration be given to include the importance of freight numbers on SH3 when preparing the submission. Mr Leitao was asked to forward any data on freight numbers for SH3 through to Ms Chetwynd for consideration.

There was further discussion and clarification on the criteria used for a highway to be included in a particular category. Ms Chetwynd and Mr Hammond were available to answer Members' questions.

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the proposed State Highway classification system; and
- b. **instructs** the Chief Executive to prepare a submission outlining the points raised in paragraphs 8 to 13 of Report No. 11-29:
 8. *The Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) 2010-2040 identifies State Highways 1,2,3 and 4 as key inter and intra-regional connectors for the region. State Highways 56 and 57 have been identified as important routes for north-south traffic between the lower Horizons region and the Wellington region, as well as for inter-regional traffic between Hawkes Bay and Wellington. State Highway 4 is of considerable importance to the Wanganui and Ruapehu districts as a corridor between the two areas, as well as an alternative route to the central North Island when State Highway 1 is closed.*
 9. *The classification of State Highways 1, 2, 3 and 57 is not inconsistent with the RLTS. However a major omission from at least the regional connector classification (and possibly the regional strategic classification) is SH56 from Palmerston North to SH57 at Makerua. At present this is a relatively short state highway which terminates at the Palmerston North urban boundary. However it is an important access route for travellers from Palmerston North heading south on SH57, and is becoming increasingly important as a route for heavy traffic from the north east industrial area of Palmerston North heading south.*
 10. *A recent joint strategic transport study conducted by Horizons, NZTA, Palmerston North City Council and Manawatu District Council describes this route as having an inter-regional function and suggests a future inter-regional connection between the current SH56 route and SH3 at Rangitikei Line. The route currently meets at least two of the criteria for a regional connector as set out in the draft classification system.*
 11. *Under the draft criteria, it is unlikely that the status of State Highway 4 could be elevated beyond regional distributor, however, the importance of the route as an alternative route when State Highway 1 is closed, should be stressed.*
 12. *The information provided in the discussion document on freight flows (tonnes and values at ports, airports and inland ports) does not include any data for Palmerston North airport. While the major trunk line for passenger air movements is Christchurch-Wellington-Auckland, due to the curfew restrictions at Wellington airport the major air freight trunk line for national and international air freight is Christchurch-Palmerston North-Auckland. It is suggested that for completion, information on freight tonnage and value be sought from Palmerston North Airport Limited.*
 13. *The document also refers to the section of State Highway 54 running from Feilding to Ashhurst. SH54 in fact terminates at Rangitikei Line where it intersects with SH3. This inaccuracy should be corrected.*

CARRIED

RUGBY WORLD CUP TRANSPORT PLAN UPDATE

Report No. 11-32

Consideration of this report was postponed to the next Regional Transport Committee meeting.

MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Sergeant Burbery, New Zealand Police reported that the number of road fatalities in the Region was well down compared to the same period for last year. He also noted the increased Police presence in Christchurch in response to the devastating earthquake on 22 February.

Mr W Furner, Ruapehu District Council tabled a report which sought the Committee's support to advocate for the continuation of the carriage construction programme to include new carriages for the North Island Overlander service.

The Chairman thanked Mr Furner for his report.

RT 11-16

Moved

Chettleburgh/Forge

that the public be excluded from the remainder of the Regional Transport Committee meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX1 Rail Investigation – Options for the Capital Connection Rail Service Report No. 11-33	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to the public excluded part of the meeting at 12.15pm and resumed at 12.36pm.

Woodville Stock Effluent Disposal:

Mayor Ellis, Tararua District Council expressed several areas of concern his Council had about a proposed stock effluent disposal site to be located in Woodville. The Manager Transport Services responded to the concerns raised by Mayor Ellis.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Confirmed.

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN