



Minutes of the sixth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Regional Transport Committee held at 2.02pm on Monday 9 March 2009, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT

Crs EB Gordon (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh, GP Murfitt (ex officio from 2.07pm to 4.02pm), Mayor B Duffy (Horowhenua District Council), Mayor M Reynolds (Tararua District Council), Cr G Cruden (Palmerston North City Council), Cr D Brown (Rangitikei District Council), Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), Cr M Bell (Manawatu District Council), Cr J Compton (Ruapehu District Council), Mr R Forgie (Economic Development), Mr B Smith (Access & Mobility), Ms J Chetwynd (New Zealand Transport Agency), Inspector N Wynne (Safety and Personal Security).

IN ATTENDANCE

Group Manager Regional Services Mr GP Shirley
and Information (to 3.57pm)
Manager Transport Services Mrs A Redgrave
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

Crs P Rieger, M Guy (to 4.02pm), Mr E Christiansen (New Zealand Transport Agency), Mayor J Naylor (Palmerston North City Council to 3.53pm), Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), Mrs C Atkinson (Manager Communications to 2.52pm), Ms E Collins (Media Liaison Officer from 2.22pm to 3.51pm), Mr James Beard (Member of the Public to 2.10pm), and various other interested groups.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Christine Cheyne and Mayor Sue Morris.

LT 09-54

Moved

Reynolds/Bell

*that the Committee **accepts** the apologies of Dr Cheyne and Mayor Morris.*

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Mr James Beard drew Members attention to a dangerous bridge in the vicinity of Opiki (heading towards the railway line), and raised the matter of a commuter bus service from Waitarere to Levin.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

A spelling correction to the seconder of resolution LT 08-52, *Crompton* should read *Compton*, was noted.

LT 09-55

Moved

Duffy/Compton

that the minutes of the Regional Land Transport Committee held on 9 December 2008, as circulated, with a spelling correction to the seconder of resolution LT 08-52 to Compton, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Passenger Transport Subcommittee Meeting – 17 February 2009

LT 09-56

Moved

Duffy/Chettleburgh

that the Minutes of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 17 February 2009, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME (RLTP) 2009-12

Report No: 09-34

This report was to approve the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-12.

Mrs Redgrave, Manager Transport Services (MTS) drew Members attention to the prioritised list of activities which contained all major state highway projects and all major capital works of territorial local authorities. She noted that since the workshop held on 19 February 2009 a number of local roading activities had been removed from the programme, largely due to the territorial authority concerned making a decision to remove, or delay inclusion of the project in their Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). Roading activities that had no provision for the local share of the cost for the project would not be eligible for Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) funding.

The MTS outlined the key stages so far in the RLTP development for the draft to be released for consultation. Members asked questions of clarification.

Mayor Naylor, Palmerston North City Council (PNCC), spoke to the Committee in regard to PNCC's position to the proposed Manawatu upstream bridge. He advised that PNCC's draft LTCCP would not be confirmed by full Council until 18 March 2009, and that the draft may, or may not include provision for the proposed upstream bridge. A suggested recommendation was tabled by PNCC to enable the Regional Transport Committee to make a decision on the matter.

Mayor Duffy asked for more certainty from PNCC that they were committed to the upstream bridge proposal. Mayor Naylor replied that a large amount of work, including a benefit cost ratio and consultants modelling, had been undertaken to justify the construction of a second bridge. He noted that it was an important regional project, however the final outcome would be the decision of PNCC Councillors. Several Members outlined their support of the proposed bridge and noted the importance of it for the Region as a whole.

Ms Chetwynd, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), commented that the focus from government was on funding for roads of national significance, and further noted that NZTA made the final decision as to whether projects included in the RLTP would be considered for R funding.

The MTS outlined to Members the recommended list of R funding allocations, prepared by the Regional Advisory Group at the workshop held on 19 February 2009. A table containing information about the projects proposed for R funding was tabled for Members information. Members discussed the list and asked questions of clarification. The MTS outlined that if the proposed Manawatu bridge project was not included in PNCC's LTCCP, it was proposed that R funding allocated for that project be considered for additional safety work on state highways.

Mayor Reynolds noted that Tararua District Council was not supportive of recommendation (c) in the report, and suggested that the R funds be allocated to projects other than state highway safety.

Members continued discussion on the priority list for R funding and asked further questions of clarification.

Mr Smith, Access and Mobility, said in his view bridge renewal should be funded out of National (N) funding, and not from R funding.

Cr Cruden asked the Chairman to consider moving PNCC's tabled recommendation before the recommendations outlined in the report.

LT 09-57

Moved

Cruden/Reynolds

that the Committee recommends that Council:

Agrees to replace the second bullet point of Clause 2.4 and Clause 2.7 of the draft 2009-12 Regional Land Transport Programme concerning the proposed upstream bridge over the Manawatu River near Palmerston North, to read:

"Funding for a proposal to construct an upstream bridge over the Manawatu River near Palmerston North, whether included or not in the Palmerston North City Council draft 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan, is subject to community consultation for a final decision when the Palmerston North City Council's 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan is approved during June 2009. In the event of the bridge proposal being included in that Plan it would be deemed to be regionally significant by the Regional Transport Committee and included in the list of prioritised activities as identified in the table below", and the schedule amended accordingly.

CARRIED

There was further discussion on recommendation LT 09-57 above, and it was noted that it referred to both Clause 2.4 and Clause 2.7 of the draft Regional Land Transport Programme, and also that the phrase '*and the schedule amended accordingly*' be included.

The Chairman advised that the recommendations as outlined in the report would be separated out.

LT 09-58

Moved

Duffy/Brown

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **confirms** the priority order of state highway and major territorial authority projects shown in Figure 3 of the draft Regional Land Transport Programme.

CARRIED

LT 09-59

Moved

Compton/Bell

- b. **approves** R funding recommendations as outlined on Figure 5 in the draft Regional Land Transport Programme.

CARRIED

There was discussion on whether recommendation (c) should be deleted, and a decision was made that it be changed to reflect that the additional R funds would be reallocated for small to medium projects, subject to PNCC's decision on the upstream Manawatu Bridge.

Mayor Duffy understood that the money had been identified for safety projects on local roads and noted that this would no longer be applicable under the new recommendation.

LT 09-60

Moved

Reynolds/Compton

- c. **approves** subject to Palmerston North City Council's decision on the Manawatu Bridge, provisional allocation of an additional \$25 million of R funds to small to medium projects.

CARRIED

The Committee agreed to change the wording in recommendation (d) to reflect its support for increased financial assistance for the Pahiatua Track upgrade.

LT 09-61

Moved

Reynolds/Anderson

- d. **supports** Tararua District Council's request for an increased financial assistance rate for its Pahiatua Track upgrade.

CARRIED

There was discussion on the membership and quorum of members delegated to hear submissions and recommendation (e) was altered to reflect that discussion.

LT 09-62

Moved

Duffy/Bell

- e. **agrees** that the full regional transport committee will hear submissions on the draft programme with a quorum of 50% of the voting members, including the Chair.

CARRIED

LT 09-63

Moved

Compton/Reynolds

- f. **approves** the draft Regional Land Transport Programme for 2009-12 for release for consultation, as amended during the meeting.

The Chairman spoke in support of Mr Smith's earlier comments that bridge renewals be funded from N funds, rather than R funds, and recommendation (g) was added to reflect that.

LT 09-64

Moved

Smith/Gordon

- g. agrees as a general principal that bridge renewals should be funded from N funds.*

CARRIED

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY REVIEW

Report No: 09-35

This report was to outline a proposed process and timeline for the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS).

Members noted the proposed process and timeline in Report No. 09-35.

LT 09-65

Moved

Chettleburgh/Reynolds

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. approves the proposed timeline and process for the renewal of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.*

CARRIED

ROAD SAFETY REPORT

Report No: 09-33

This report was to inform Members of recent road safety activities in the Region.

Ms Lowe, Transport Planner, advised that as at Tuesday 3 March 2009 the Manawatu / Wanganui road toll stood at eight, and the national road toll stood at 68.

In answer to a query from Cr Chettleburgh as to whether the wearing of helmets by cyclists was targeted by road safety coordinators, the MTS confirmed that it was targeted through safe cycling programmes.

Mr Smith, Access and Mobility, asked that the efforts made by the road safety team for road safety education, be reflected in the recommendation.

LT 09-66

Moved

Wynne/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the report on road safety education activities, and thanks the road safety team for their efforts.*

CARRIED

ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Passenger Transport Subcommittee Meeting (Confidential) – 17 February 2009

The Chairman noted that the decisions on the tenders contained in the minutes of 17 February 2009 had now been made public and the minutes could therefore be received in the public part of the meeting.

LT 09-67

Moved

Gordon/Duffy

that the Minutes of the confidential part of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 17 February 2009, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Regional Transport Committee set down for Tuesday 2 June 2009, be moved to Tuesday 23 June 2009. The MTS would confirm the date of the next meeting by email to Members as soon as possible.

Cr Brown asked for clarification on who was responsible for abandoned vehicles on state highways. The MTS advised she would endeavour to find out and email an answer to him.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN