



Minutes of the fourth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Regional Transport Committee held at 9.37am on Tuesday 2 September 2008, in the Council Chambers, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs EB Gordon (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh, GP Murfitt (ex officio), Mayor B Duffy (Horowhenua District Council from 9.50am), Mayor S Morris (Ruapehu District Council), Cr G Cruden (Palmerston North City Council), Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), Mr E Christiansen (New Zealand Transport Agency to 9.50am), Mr I Hunter (New Zealand Transport Agency from 9.50am), Cr M Bell (Manawatu District Council), Mr D Brown (Rangitikei District Council), Dr C Cheyne (Environmental Sustainability), Ms L Tamehana (Wanganui District Health Board).

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr M McCartney (from 9.55am)
Group Manager Regional Services and Information Mr GP Shirley
Manager Transport Services Mrs A Redgrave
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Crs P Rieger (from 10.00am), M Guy (from 9.45am), M Plowman, **Cr J Compton (Ruapehu District Council)**, Mr E Christiansen (New Zealand Transport Agency from 9.50am), Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Ms VM Patton (Total Mobility Coordinator), Ms D Webber (Transport Officer), Mr D Lane, and Mr G Tong (Palmerston North City Council), and various other interested groups.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the new structure of the Regional Transport Committee meeting and noted that resignations had been received from Mr Sam Bishara (Cultural Interests), Mr Mark Hargreaves (Economic Development), and Ms Laurel Campbell (Access & Mobility). The Chairman thanked them for their time and input into the Regional Land Transport Committee. Notices had been sent out inviting nominations for those positions.

APOLOGIES Apologies were received from, Inspector N Wynne (New Zealand Police), and Mayor M Reynolds (Tararua District Council).

LT 08-33

Moved

Brown/Chettleburgh

*that the Committee **accepts** the apologies of Inspector Wynne, and Mayor Reynolds.*

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

LT 08-34

Moved

Chettleburgh/Gordon

that the minutes of the Regional Land Transport Committee held on 3 June 2008, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Passenger Transport Subcommittee Meeting – 25 August 2008

LT 08-35

Moved

Chettleburgh/Gordon

that the Minutes of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 25 August 2008, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

TRANSIT NEW ZEALAND'S TEN-YEAR STATE HIGHWAY FORECAST AND THE NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME FOR 2008-09

Report No: 08-156

This report was to inform Members about the content and implications of the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and the Transit Ten-Year State Highway Forecast for 2008-09.

The Mangager Transport Services (MTS) introduced the item and highlighted that the NLTP had allocated \$77.3 million to transport activities in the Manawatu-Wanganui Region, an increase from \$61.9 million last year. She noted key projects included in the forecast were; Ohingaiti Makohine Realignment (under construction), Papatawa Realignment (at design stage), and also outlined in the forecast was an extended three year programme showing the small and medium size projects for the Region.

Mr Christiansen commented that the projects outlined were a list of work that would be looked at with the intention to construct provided the jobs remained viable.

Members asked questions of clarification on some of the projects listed and Mr Christiansen gave an update on progress to date. In particular he advised that the upgrade of Old West Road (North) was listed to proceed within the next three years, subject to workload. He also clarified that the Manawatu Hill project was still a priority and was included in the State Highway list of works to be actioned. In regard to stock effluent sites, Mr Christiansen noted that work was continuing to find suitable sites to locate these.

LT 08-36

Moved

Brown/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the contents of the National Land Transport Programme and the Transit New Zealand Ten-Year State Highway Forecast.

CARRIED

GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Report No: 08-155

This report was to inform Members of the contents of the recently released Government Policy Statement (GPS).

Miss Lowe, Transport Planner spoke to the item and outlined some of the key points of the Government Policy Statement (GPS). In regard to the key targets of the GPS, the Manager Transport Services noted that the Regional Land Programme that was to be developed with input from the Regional Land Committee, must be consistent with the GPS.

LT 08-37

Moved

Brown/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the content of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport funding 2009-10 to 2018-19.

CARRIED

REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME 2009-10 PRIORITISATION METHOD AND DEFINITIONS

Report No: 08-153

This report was to determine:

- i. a process for the prioritisation of activities in the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP);
- ii. a significance policy for variations to the RLTP;
- iii. a definition of minor capital works, for the purposes of prioritisation.

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) sought Members approval for an updated timeline for preparation of Regional Land Transport Programme for Manawatu-Wanganui region.

The MTS spoke to the item and advised that the Technical Advisory Group had met and adapted some suggested policies from the New Zealand Transport Agency and applied local variations to those policies. She commented that consistency with the national process would ensure that all factors were considered when the programme was examined by the Agency. The MTS outlined the Technical Advisory Group's suggestions in regard to the Prioritisation Process, Significance Policy for Variations to Regional Land Transport Programmes, and Definition of Minor Capital Works.

Mr Ian Hunter, New Zealand Transport Agency gave a presentation on the Assessment, Prioritisation and Programming of projects, and outlined how the process would work.

Members asked questions of clarification.

Several Members commented on the high dollar value of \$4.5 million as one criteria required to meet the definition of 'minor capital works'. After discussion it was decided that if the other criteria were met, the dollar limit was not likely to be relevant in this region.

Mr Hunter congratulated the MTS and her team on the development of the timeline and policies for preparation of the Regional Land Transport Programme for Manawatu-Wanganui region, and asked for the Committee's permission to use the work to help other Regional Transport Committees.

LT 08-38

Moved

Bell/Duffy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **approves** the adoption of the New Zealand Transport Agency's prioritisation process for the Regional Land Transport Programme;
- b. **approves** the following policy for determining the significance (for consultation purposes) of amendments or variations to regional land transport programmes:

*"The following amendments or variations to the regional land transport programme are considered to be **not significant** for purposes of consultation.*

- *Activities that are in the urgent interests of public safety;*
 - *New preventive maintenance and emergency reinstatement activities in accordance with sections 9.7 and 9.8 of this manual (the Programme and Funding Manual);*
 - *Addition of an activity or activities that have previously been consulted on in accordance with section 17 and 18 of the Land Transport Management Act and which the Regional Transport Committee considers complies with the provisions for funding approval in accordance with section 20 of the Land Transport Management Act;*
 - *A scope change that does not significantly alter the original objectives of the project (to be determined by the Regional Transport Committee);*
 - *Replacement of a project within a group of generic projects by another project of the same type."*
- c. **approves** the following definition of "minor capital works" for the purpose of determining which activities should be excluded from regional prioritisation during regional land transport programme preparation.

"Minor capital works are capital projects associated with local roads, including associated property purchase, that meet all the following criteria

- *have a capital cost of less than or equal to \$4.5 million*
- *are not on a regional arterial route*
- *do not use C or R funds. "*

CARRIED

MANAWATU RIVER UPSTREAM BRIDGE PROPOSAL

Report No: 08-157

This report was to inform Members of further developments with Palmerston North City Council's proposal for an upstream bridge on the Manawatu River.

Mr David Lane, Road Planning Team Leader, Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) presented a report outlining further progress on the establishment of a new bridge crossing of the Manawatu River. The report outlined the desired construction timetable, and noted that the project was included in the list of roading projects for consideration for Regional (R) funding. It also outlined the intention to conclude the investigations for an intended eastern roading corridor that would link to the roading network of Manawatu District Council.

Crs Gordon and Chettleburgh commented that no firm commitment was identified in the report for a north eastern industrial zone link with the proposed bridge. Mr Lane pointed out there was already an existing urban linkage from the north eastern industrial zone down to the proposed bridge, and in view of the predicted traffic volumes, he considered it would be sufficient.

Mr Hunter, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) outlined the new guidelines for funding introduced by NZTA. He also commented on several other points:

- NZTA required a full assessment of the project;
- no urgency for consideration of R funding was required with the recent release of the Government Policy Statement (GPS);
- Fitzherbert Bridge issues were not yet serious enough to justify consideration of solutions; and
- there was little demand in traffic volumes for a bypass of the City at present.

Cr Cruden noted that the report from the Palmerston North City Council on the Manawatu Stream Bridge Proposal was in response to a resolution at the June Regional Land Transport Meeting seeking a timeline for the second bridge, including linkages to the eastern growth corridor proposal. Members attention was drawn to the benefit cost ratio calculations contained in the report and Cr Cruden advised that these figures had now increased. He also noted that all requirements for R funding under the old criteria had been completed but with the introduction of the new profile for assessment issued by the NZTA, additional information from Palmerston North City Council was required. In order to move forward with the bridge proposal, Cr Cruden tabled recommendations (a), (b), and (c) to replace those in the agenda.

Mayor Duffy advised he did not support Cr Cruden's recommendations. He believed that the timetable for the project was unachievable and he did not want to see the Region disadvantaged by having funds allocated for a project that would not proceed.

Mr Hunter commented that more certainty on the eastern corridor route was required by NZTA in order for funding for the bridge to be considered.

A point of order was raised by Cr Chettleburgh. He believed that the Committee should be receiving the Horizons officers report as outlined in the agenda. Cr Cruden advised that he had put a motion before the Committee. The motion had been moved and seconded and was therefore required to be dealt with.

Cr Cruden moved the following recommendations:

LT 08-39

Moved

Cruden/Bell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the Palmerston North City Council update report dated 21 August 2008 on the investigation of the proposed bridge linking Te Matai Road with Staces Road which fully complies with the Committee's request for further information under resolution LT 08-30 dated 3 June 2008;
- b. **notes** that as a consequence of the release during August 2008 of the "Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2009-10 – 2018-19" and by the New Zealand Land Transport Association on 22 August 2008 of its "Chapter G1 Creating an assessment profile" the Palmerston North City Council is preparing additional information in accordance with the matters set out in those two documents.
- c. **endorses** the proposed corridor study to be undertaken jointly by the Palmerston North City Council and Manawatu District Council which the City Council is at present in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with Transit New Zealand endeavouring to progress expeditiously.

LOST

For: 4 Members

Against: 9 Members

The motion was lost. Cr Chettleburgh moved recommendation (a) of the agenda.

LT 08-40

Moved

Chettleburgh/Duffy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the update report on progress on the investigation of the proposed bridge linking Te Matai Road with Staces Road in Palmerston North City.

CARRIED

Mayor Duffy moved recommendations (b) and (c) of the agenda.

LT 08-41

Moved

Duffy/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- b. **notes** that additional work is required to complete the assessment of the project under the Land Transport Management Act criteria but it is expected that this assessment will be completed and lodged with Horizons Regional Council before the deadline for completion of the draft Regional Land Transport Programme in November 2008;
- c. **endorses** the proposed corridor study to be undertaken jointly by Palmerston North City Council and Manawatu District Council.

CARRIED

STRATFORD TO OKAHUKURA RAILWAY LINE WORKING PARTY

Report No. 08-158

This report was to inform Members on the progress of the working party formed to advocate for the continued use of the Stratford to Okahukura (SOL) railway line for both passenger excursion and freight trains.

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) advised that as a result of a review of the SOL, ONTRACK made a decision not to sanction use of the line for passenger excursions due to safety issues. As part of the line ran through our Region, Horizons had been asked to participate in the working party convened by Taranaki region, to look at issues associated with that line.

Mayor Morris, Ruapehu District Council advised that an elected member from Ruapehu was on the working party. She looked forward to the support from the Committee for the Whangamomona Republic Day train excursion.

LT 08-42

Moved

Morris/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the progress of a working party on the Stratford to Okahukura Rail Link.

CARRIED

ROAD SAFETY REPORT

Report No. 08-154

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

The Manager Transport Services (MTS) spoke to the report. She advised that the road toll for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region stood at 19 (not 14 as stated in para 6).

Members asked questions of clarification.

LT 08-43

Moved

Gordon/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on road safety education activities.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Chettleburgh, Chair of Passenger Transport Committee advised that the report of the Public Excluded part of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 25 August 2008 would be received at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.38am.