



Report **06.74**
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Committee **Regional Land Transport**
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Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee Report

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the report of the Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee and identify the next steps in the Western Corridor process.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Comment

The Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee presented their report to members of the Committee on the afternoon of Wednesday 8 March and released it to the public later that day.

A Core Communications report analysing Western Corridor submissions will also be available to this meeting. The Core report was commissioned separately by Greater Wellington and Transit.

This report clarifies the next steps in the Western Corridor process. In brief:

- The reports need to be received by Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) for consideration
- Subcommittee minutes need to be formally received and the subcommittee discharged
- RLTC needs to receive the views of network providers
- RLTC needs to set a date for final consideration of the report, and the adoption of recommendations to the Regional Council

- The subsequent Regional Council meeting needs to adopt recommendations into the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

At that point, the region would have a Western Corridor Plan formally adopted as part of a Regional Land Transport Strategy. This compares to the condition in the Wellington Transport Package requiring such resolution by the end of July 2006.

4. Receiving the report

Receiving the report gives the findings and conclusions a status requiring formal consideration. The Hearings Subcommittee report contains numerous details that require reflective consideration by affected parties and the Committee, and receiving does not mean adoption of such details.

The Subcommittee, having completed its task, needs to be discharged. Such discharge would relieve members from their Subcommittee obligations. It also brings onto the record the Subcommittee minutes (**attachment 1**). Members of the Subcommittee have been required to accommodate 28 sitting days and at least 20 other days in reading, site visits, deliberations and drafting over the last four months, and should be thanked for their efforts.

5. Views of network providers

Section 175(2)g of the Land Transport Act requires the views of network providers to be taken into account when considering Regional Land Transport Strategy matters. The proposed Western Corridor Plan identified Transit (for state highways), Greater Wellington (for public transport, especially rail services), Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council (for respective local roads) as affected providers. The amended plan as tabled by the Hearings Subcommittee could add Porirua City Council and ONTRACK (in respect of rail track improvements) as potentially affected providers. Upper Hutt City Council is also potentially affected in respect of SH58 and its connections.

Transit Board resolutions during the process have indicated that Transit has no predetermined view other than conditionally supporting proposals for the purposes of consultation. State highway matters are a key component of both the proposed and the amended Western Corridor Plans, and Transit is the statutory agency for state highway matters. ONTRACK has expressed no view at all, but is now potentially affected.

As all the aforementioned organisations are represented on the Committee, it is expected that the views of those organisations will be taken into account as a normal part of the RLTC process. Consequently the proposal is to schedule RLTC's final consideration of Western Corridor matters to the 11 April meeting. RLTC's May workshop would consider the rest of the RLTS, including the whole regional transport programme (over 20 years). Such consideration would have the advantage of bringing RLTC members up to date

on the look of a regional programme that include the Hearings Subcommittee's findings on the Western Corridor.

6. Communication

All submitters will be informed of the findings of the Subcommittee and the report will be available on the GW website.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives*** the Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee's report;
2. ***Receives*** the minutes of the Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee (Attachment 1);
3. ***Disbands*** the Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee having completed its task, and thanks members for their contributions;
4. ***Notes*** the Core Communications report, Western Corridor Submissions Analysis;
5. ***Seeks*** the views of network providers on relevant elements of the Hearings Subcommittee's report at the RLTC meeting on 11 April;
6. ***Schedules*** formal consideration of the Western Corridor Plan for the 11 April meeting of RLTC; and
7. ***Notes*** Greater Wellington will consider the Committee's recommendations at its meeting on 27 April.

Report prepared by:

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Chair Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee

Attachment 1: Minutes of the Western Corridor Hearings Subcommittee