



Report 07.565
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To provide an update on the Next Steps project, to provide a review of the Triennium and to seek the Committee's agreement to recommend to Greater Wellington the reappointment of the current transport and cultural interest representatives to the Committee for the first part of the next Triennium.

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. Next Steps Update

3.1 Work Undertaken to Progress Next Steps

The Committee received a briefing at its 27 June meeting from Ministry of Transport officials about the Next Steps review. Since that briefing Ministry officials have been developing a number of proposals arising from the review, including more detail on:

- Legislative and structural changes required to enable the merger between Land Transport New Zealand and Transit New Zealand into a new land transport entity
- the development and application of the proposed new policy provisions, in particular the Government Policy Statement and the Implementing the New Zealand Land Transport Strategy document
- the proposed prioritisation and programme for regional land transport projects, and the structures required at the regional level to support this work, and
- the details for enabling the full hypothecation of the fuel excise duties, etc.

The Ministry has provided the following timetable for the project:

Milestone	Date
Bill introduced	Late September 2007
Crown entity established, support unit set up and begins work	Mid September – mid November
Select Committee processes (hearings)	October – February 2008
Interim Board established for merged Crown entity	By December 2007
Bill comes into force	March-April 2008
Merger implemented	1 July 2008

We have yet to see any of the details on the proposed changes. It is understood Cabinet may consider a series of papers outlining the recommended changes this week. If any decisions are made by Cabinet prior to the Committee's meeting these will be outlined at the meeting.

3.2 Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the Ministry's work officials have engaged with a number of stakeholders, including Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Through this process LGNZ's Transport Reference Group met twice to discuss the proposals, including time spent with Ministry officials.

A further meeting was held between the Minister of Transport and LGNZ representatives (President Basil Morrison, Graeme Weld (Chairman of the Transport Reference Group) and Ian Buchanan). In **Attachment 1** is a summary of the key issues discussed at that meeting and the responses that may form the basis of the proposed legislation.

3.3 Changes to Regional Land Transport Committees

Changes to the legislative provisions applying to Regional Land Transport Committees are expected through the Next Steps process, although at this time no details are confirmed. The LGNZ meeting summary in **Attachment 1** identifies some likely changes, including one representative from each of the Territorial Authorities in the Region, two representatives from the Regional Council (with one being the chair) and the retention of the five transport interest representatives and a cultural representative, but with no voting rights. From this summary it also appears that the Committees may be retained as Regional Council standing committees.

The current RLTC has:

- a representatives for each of the Territorial Authorities

- four Regional Council representatives
- representatives for each of the five transport interests
- a cultural representative, and
- a representative of Land Transport New Zealand.

Transit New Zealand and OnTrack have representatives on the Committee, but without voting rights.

Greater Wellington will be appointing members to the Committee at the beginning of the next Triennium, following the elections in October. The practice has been to appoint nominees from the Territorial Authorities and Land Transport New Zealand. A selection process is followed to identify and appoint the members representing cultural and transport interests.

Until the changes to the legislation are known it would be appropriate for Greater Wellington to seek to reappoint current interest representatives for the interim period. This will avoid a selection process that potentially will not be necessary. In addition should the committee structure remain largely as it is the status of the interest representatives on the committee (i.e. whether they have voting rights or not) may influence some people in making a decision to make themselves available for appointment. Should any of the current representatives not be available for reappointment their position could remain vacant for this interim period.

4. Review of the Triennium

This is the final meeting of the Committee for the 2005-2007 Triennium. During the Triennium the Committee has completed a number of significant projects. Included in these were:

- The review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy. This started with consultation on a strategic options report in late 2005, and went through many consultation phases before the revised Strategy was adopted in July 2007
- The Western Corridor Plan. This was a major consultation exercise involving some 6,000 submissions. It was adopted in April 2006 after a nine-month consultation and hearings process
- The Travel Demand Management Strategy. This was consulted on in August 2005 and adopted in December 2005, and
- The agreement on a regional transport programme, including the allocation of Crown and “R” funding for roading and passenger transport projects throughout the region.

On behalf of the transport officers within Greater Wellington and the wider Transport Technical Working Group I would like to note that it has been a

pleasure working with this Committee, and the various subcommittees that have operated over the Triennium. I take this opportunity to also specifically acknowledge the Chairman, Terry McDavitt, and thank him for the manner in which he has worked alongside officers and provided guidance to us in carrying out work for the Committee.

5. **Communication**

Communications associated with the Next Steps review will be made by the Ministry as necessary. There are no other matters that require communications at this time.

6. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the contents of the report.***
3. ***Recommends to Greater Wellington that, subject to their availability, it reappoints the current transport and cultural interest representatives to the Regional Land Transport Committee at the beginning of the next Triennium, for an interim period until changes to the Committee are known and any changes come into effect.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Summary discussion between Minister of Transport and LGNZ