



Report 11.16
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Committee Economic Wellbeing Committee
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Regional Public Transport Plan - updated and revised terms of reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Regional Public Transport Plan and seek approval to a revised Terms of Reference and project schedule.

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. Background

Greater Wellington is required by the Public Transport Management Act 2008 to prepare a Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) by 31 December 2011. The RPTP will replace the Regional Passenger Transport Plan adopted in August 2007.

The development of the RPTP commenced last year with the approval by the Transport and Access Committee on 9 February (**Report 10.16**) of the terms of reference. The project schedule provided for completion of the RPTP by September 2010.

A discussion document was prepared in March 2010 and sent to public transport operators, territorial authorities and public transport advocates for feedback. This feedback was reported back to the Transport and Access Committee on 15 June 2010 (**Report 10.319**).

The Committee agreed that there should be a delay in preparing the RPTP. This was primarily due to feedback from public transport operators advising that development of the RPTP should be delayed until there was more certainty around the Government's desire for changes to the public transport operating model (for the procurement of public transport services).

Work has however continued in the background and a revised Terms of Reference and project schedule have now been prepared for approval by this Committee.

4. The revised Terms of Reference

The attached Terms of Reference (**Attachment 1**) update and replace the previous terms of reference adopted by the Transport and Access Committee on 9 February 2010. The changes are set out below.

4.1 Recognition of emerging public transport operating model

The Ministry of Transport and the NZTA are currently working on the development of a new “public transport operating model” (for the procurement of public transport services). Greater Wellington is involved in this work and is expected to adopt this new model when finalised, which is expected shortly. The new public transport model will involve more focus on increasing the commerciality of services, and more emphasis on a partnership approach with public transport operators.

The RPTP must be adopted by 31 December 2011 at the latest and therefore cannot wait for finalisation of the public transport operating model. However the work to date in developing the model will be incorporated in the RPTP as appropriate.

4.2 Adoption of a “partnership approach” with public transport operators

A central tenet of the work in developing the new public transport operating model is to adopt more of a partnership approach with public transport operators. One of the things we are doing to provide for this is making provision on the project Steering Committee for an industry representative.

4.3 An additional opportunity for input from stakeholders

Due to the length of time since the original Discussion Document was released an additional opportunity has been provided in the project schedule for early feedback from public transport operators, territorial authorities and public transport advocates. An initial draft RPTP will be made available to these parties and feedback sought prior to finalisation of the draft for formal consultation under the special consultative procedure.

A separate Council Committee workshop is also planned during this period to provide Councillors an opportunity to discuss the initial draft RPTP.

4.4 Explicit reference to our intention to deliver value for money

The national framework for the development of the RPTP is focussed on delivering more effective and efficient transport services and achieving value for money. This is reflected in the Government Policy Statement on Transport Funding (an updated policy statement is due out shortly) and is also an important driver for the public transport operating model review.

To reflect these priorities the Terms of Reference make it clear that the “RPTP is intended to deliver value for money by growing public transport patronage with less reliance on public subsidy, in line with existing government policy”.

4.5 Clarification around the governance structure

The Terms of Reference have been revised to make it clear that the full Council will be adopting the RPTP but that the Economic Wellbeing Committee has been delegated responsibility to develop the RPTP. The Terms of Reference also provide for a Hearings Subcommittee to be formed and to recommend the final RPTP to the Council for adoption.

The General Manager, Public Transport is the project sponsor and is responsible for day-to-day decision-making. The Steering Committee is responsible for ensuring the RPTP is prepared in accordance with these Terms of Reference and legislation.

The Terms of Reference previously included provision for an independent auditor. This provision has been removed as we believe the revised NZTA guidelines for preparing a RPTP and the feedback that has been, and will be, provided directly by NZTA, will be sufficient to ensure we meet the necessary obligations.

4.6 Updated project schedule (for adoption of RPTP by end of July 2011)

The project schedule has been updated to reflect the new timetable. The schedule provides for adoption of the RPTP by Council on 27 July 2011 (**Attachment 2**). The statutory deadline is 31 December 2011 which does provide some room for slippage if necessary. Any major delays or changes to the project schedule will be reported to this Committee but otherwise will be managed by the Project Sponsor and Steering Committee.

4.7 Risks

The risks section of the Terms of Reference identified delays in adopting the RLTS as a risk. The Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010 was adopted in September 2010 and therefore delays in this project are no longer a risk and have been removed from the Terms of Reference.

5. Communication

Communication will be carried out according to the revised Terms of Reference. This includes advising public transport operators and other stakeholders of the process from now until adoption of the RPTP.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

3. ***Agrees to the revised Terms of Reference, including project schedule, for the development of the Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2011 set out in **Attachment 1**.***

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Attachment 1: Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan – Terms of reference (revised)

Attachment 2: Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan – Proposed meeting schedule