



Report 12.301  
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Committee Council  
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## Approval of the Wellington Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 - 2015

### 1. Purpose

To recommend the Wellington Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) 2012 – 2015 for approval (**Attachment 1**).

### 2. Consideration by Committee

The Regional Transport Committee considered the recommended RLTP at its meeting on 22 June 2012 (**Report 12.246**) and resolved to refer it to Greater Wellington for approval.

### 3. Significance of the decision

This report involves Council making a decision of a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties, and to the wider regional community.

Adopting the RLTP will not mean any activity is automatically funded and implemented. The decision to adopt a final RLTP by Greater Wellington forms one step in the funding process, allowing projects and activities included in the RLTP to be funded from the National Land Transport Fund.

The decision-making process for regional land transport programmes is explicitly prescribed for by section 18A of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, this process includes the use of the special consultative procedure as set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

Views of the community were sought, heard and considered through the RLTP consultation process and are documented in previous reports to the RLTP Hearings Subcommittee (**Report 12.210**) and Regional Transport Committee (**Report 12.246**).

## 4. Background

The amended Land Transport Management Act 2003<sup>1</sup> (the Act) requires each Regional Council to approve a RLTP every 3 years. Under the Act the Regional Transport Committee prepares and consults on the RLTP for referral to the Regional Council for approval. There are some procedural controls on the approval process and these are outlined in Section 8 below.

Once approved the RLTP must be submitted to the NZ Transport Agency. The Agency will take all RLTPs from around the country into account when preparing a National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). The NLTP is due to be published by 31 August 2012. While the NZ Transport Agency will take account of the regional programme and priorities it does not have to include any activities or projects in the National Land Transport Programme, nor is it bound to follow the regional programme when considering detailed funding applications.

The RLTP contains all the land transport activities proposed to be undertaken throughout the region for the next 3 financial years (2012 – 2015), the regional priority of those activities, plus a 10-year financial forecast. The activities in the programme relate to passenger transport, walking and cycling, road safety, local roads, state highways, and the movement of freight.

The proposed activities in the RLTP are submitted by the NZ Transport Agency and 'Approved Organisations' (including the eight territorial authorities and Greater Wellington). Greater Wellington's activities primarily relate to passenger transport, transport planning and sustainable transport promotion. These activities have been included in Council's Long Term Plan.

## 5. The Programme

Section 16 of the Act sets out the form and content of Regional Land Transport Programmes.

Section 16(1)(a) sets out those activities that must be automatically included in the programme. These are: local road maintenance, renewals and minor capital works and existing public transport services. Activities for which funding has already been committed (by the Agency) are also automatically included.

Section 16(1)(b) gives the Regional Transport Committee discretion over other activities. In relation to these activities, discretion is limited to:

- a. whether to include a project/activity in the 3-year programme
- b. the priority given to the projects and activities.

Development of the RLTP forms one step in the funding and approval process. Many activities require local funding that is approved separately through each council's Long Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan processes.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by the Land Transport Management Act 2008.

Projects must be included in the NLTP (via the RLTP) to be considered for funding, but inclusion does not guarantee funding. A projects 'assessment profile' as determined by the Agency (e.g. the rating of high/medium/low against each of the assessment criteria) is also a key consideration in determining whether or not a project receives funding from the National Land Transport Fund.

## **6. Consultation**

Consultation on the draft RLTP was carried out by the Regional Transport Committee in accordance with the consultation principles set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 and using the special consultative procedure under sections 83, 87(2)(a), and 89 of the Local Government Act 2002. This is a requirement under Section 18A of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

Submissions were invited on a proposed programme during April 2012. The draft RLTP was mailed out to key stakeholders and a summary of the RLTP was sent out to every household in the region.

A Hearings Subcommittee was established to hear and consider submissions to the draft RLTP and to make recommendations on any changes to the final programme.

546 submissions were received. A number of submissions came through to this process via Greater Wellington's LTP process which was being consulted on concurrently. A full analysis of the submissions can be found in **Report 12.210** to the RLTP Hearings Subcommittee, available on Greater Wellington's website.

The Subcommittee reported its findings and recommendations to the Regional Transport Committee at its meeting on 22 June 2012.

## **7. Recommended final RLTP**

The Regional Transport Committee considered the amended programme at its meeting on 22 June and agreed to forward a final RLTP (**Attachment 1**) to Greater Wellington for approval.

## **8. Process for approval of the RLTP**

Under Section 18B of the Act, the Regional Council is responsible for approving the final RLTP and forwarding it to the NZ Transport Agency.

The Act specifies (s18B(3)) that the Council MAY decide to approve the programme without modification OR refer the programme back to the Regional Transport Committee with a request that it reconsiders one or more aspects of the programme.

If referred back, the Committee, after reconsidering the matters raised by the Council, may forward to the Council an amended programme OR supply further information that it considers will help the Council with its decision.

Once the Council receives an amended programme or a programme with additional information the Council **MUST** approve the programme and forward it to the Agency **OR** forward the programme to the Agency stating that it is not approved along with a statement of reasons.

The RLTP must be approved and the relevant information submitted into the NZ Transport Agency's online database by 30 June 2012. The RLTP document is then published and distributed to stakeholders.

The Agency will take account of the final RLTP when preparing a National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) for the three financial years 2012/13 – 2014/15. The NLTP is due to be published by 31 August 2012.

## **9. Communication**

A media statement will be developed in relation to the approved RLTP.

Copies of the RLTP will be sent out to all partner agencies and relevant organisations.

The RLTP will be published on Greater Wellington's website.

## **10. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Approves*** the final Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 - 2015, as set out in ***Attachment 1***; and,
4. ***Agrees*** to forward the final Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 – 2015 to the New Zealand Transport Agency.
4. ***Delegates*** to the Chair of the Greater Wellington authority to approve any minor editorial amendments to the RLTP prior to it being published.

Report approved by:

**Fran Wilde**  
Chair, Regional Transport Committee

**Attachment 1: Recommended Wellington Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 - 2015**