



Report 15.158  
Date 15 April 2015  
File TP/01/18/04

Committee Council  
Author Natasha Hayes, Senior Transport Planner; Mark Edwards,  
Senior Transport Planner

## Approval of the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2015

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 (RLTP) (**Attachment 1**) for approval.

### 2. Consideration by Committee

The Regional Transport Committee will consider the recommended RLTP at its meeting on 28 April 2015 (**Report 15.157**) and (subject to agreement by the Committee) will refer it to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) for approval. Any further final changes to the recommended RLTP in **Attachment 1** made by the Regional Transport Committee at its meeting on 28 April will be tabled at the Council meeting.

### 3. Background

The Land Transport Management Act 2003 (the Act) requires every regional council to approve a RLTP every 6 years, with a review after 3 years. Under the Act, the Regional Transport Committee prepares and consults on the RLTP before forwarding it to the regional council for approval. There are some procedural controls on the approval process and these are outlined in Section 7 below.

The Wellington RLTP 2015 has been prepared based on the legislative requirements for form and content as set out in section 16 of the Act. It will replace and combine the existing Regional Land Transport Strategy and Regional Land Transport Programme for Wellington.

The RLTP must contribute to the purpose of the Act ‘an effective, efficient, and safe land transport system’ and must be consistent with the Government Policy Statement on land transport.

The RLTP includes land transport objectives, policies, and measures with a long term outlook (10 - 30 years) as required by section 16(1) of the Act. It also sets out all the land transport activities proposed for funding in the region

for the next 6 financial years (section 16(3) of the Act) and a 10-year financial forecast (section 16(2)(a) of the Act).

The proposed activities in the Wellington RLTP are submitted by the NZ Transport Agency and 'Approved Organisations' (including the eight territorial authorities and GWRC).

Some activities must be automatically included in the RLTP. These are local road maintenance, renewals and minor capital works and existing public transport services (section 16(3)(a) of the Act). Activities for which funding has already been committed (by the NZ Transport Agency) are also automatically included.

Section 16(3)(c) and (d) gives the Regional Transport Committee some discretion over all other activities. In relation to these activities, discretion is limited to:

- a. whether to include a project/activity in the 6-year programme
- b. the priority given to the 'significant' projects and activities.

#### **4. The role of the Regional Land Transport Plan**

In addition to setting out the longer term policy framework and strategic case for investment in the region's transport network, the RLTP forms an important step in the overall funding process.

In most cases, transport projects and activities are included in the RLTP because they require funding through the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). Many activities also require local funding that is approved separately through each council's long term plan process.

Once approved, the RLTP must be submitted to the NZ Transport Agency by 30 April. The Agency will take all RLTPs from around the country into account when preparing the NLTP. The NLTP is due to be published by 1 July 2015.

Projects must be included in the RLTP to be considered for national funding, but inclusion does not guarantee funding. A project's 'assessment profile' as determined by the NZ Transport 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.

#### **5. 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. This is a requirement under Section 18 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

The consultation period for the draft RLTP ran from 19 January to 20 February 2015 (five weeks).

574 submissions were received (including two late submissions). Analysis of the submissions can be found in **Report 15.62**, available on the GWRC website.

A Hearings Subcommittee was established to hear and consider submissions to the draft RLTP and to make recommendations on any changes to the final RLTP. The Subcommittee met on 9 and 10 March to hear 53 oral submissions and reconvened on 7 April to discuss and finalise its recommendations to the Regional Transport Committee.

The Subcommittee will report its findings and recommendations to the Regional Transport Committee at a meeting on 28 April 2015. A copy of the Subcommittee's report is provided as **Attachment 2** to this report.

## **6. Recommended final RLTP**

The Regional Transport Committee will consider the amended RLTP at its meeting on 28 April and (subject to agreement by the Committee) forward the final RLTP (**Attachment 2**) to GWRC for approval on 29 April.

## **7. 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 RLTP without modification or refer the RLTP back to the Regional Transport Committee with a request that it reconsiders one or more aspects.

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

Once the Council receives an amended RLTP or a RLTP with additional information the Council must approve it and forward it to the NZ Transport Agency or forward the RLTP to the NZ Transport Agency stating that it is not approved along with a statement of reasons.

This time around, the RLTP must be approved and submitted to the NZ Transport Agency by 30 April 2015, to allow development of the final NLTP by the end of June 2015. This is two months earlier than the timeframe in previous processes and has led to a very tight timeframe to develop the draft RLTP, carry out consultation and prepare the final RLTP. Consequently, Council will receive the recommended RLTP the day before it must be submitted to the NZ Transport Agency.

This means that, should the Council decide to refer the RLTP back to the RTC, then the RLTP will not be submitted by the required deadline. Officers have sought advice from the NZ Transport Agency on the implications of this scenario.

The NZ Transport Agency advises that if the RLTP is not approved by 30 April 2015, the Council must submit the unapproved RLTP to the NZ Transport Agency with a statement of reasons why it is not approved. Without an

approved RLTP the risk for the region is that activities are not included in the published NLTP, either because they were not in the RLTP, or because the profiling and prioritisation of activities is adversely affected by the uncertainty associated with the RLTP.

## **8. 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 GWRC's website.

## **9. The decision making process and significance**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **9.1 Significance of the decision**

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. The subject matter of this report involves Council making a decision of medium significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.

While adopting the RLTP is an important step in the funding process for land transport activities in the region, it does not mean any activity is automatically funded or implemented. The community consultation and decision making processes of the implementing council/organisation for a project or activity will assess the merits of that project separately to this decision, as will any required resource consent process under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The decision making process is explicitly prescribed for by section 18, 18A, and 18B of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

### **9.2 Engagement**

The decision-making process for regional land transport plans is explicitly prescribed for by section 18 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, this process involves consultation in accordance with the consultation principles specified in section 82 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 15.62**) and to the Regional Transport Committee (**refer Attachment 2**).

## **10. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

3. *Approves the final Regional Land Transport Plan 2015, as set out in Attachment 1; and,*
4. *Agrees to forward the final Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 to the New Zealand Transport Agency.*
4. *Delegates to the Chair of the Greater Wellington Regional Council authority to approve any minor editorial amendments to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 prior to it being published.*

Report prepared by:

**Natasha Hayes**  
Senior Transport Planner

Report prepared by:

**Mark Edwards**  
Senior Transport Planner

Report approved by:

**Fran Wilde**  
Chair, Regional Transport  
Committee

**Attachment 1: Recommended Regional Land Transport Plan 2015**

**Attachment 2: Report of the RLTP Hearing Subcommittee**