



Report 15.629
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Committee Council
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Report on the Regional Transport Committee meeting, 8 December 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Regional Transport Committee (the Committee) meeting of 8 December 2015.

2. Public participation

David Tripp and Timon Bakker (on behalf of Hutt Cycle Network) gave a presentation entitled 'Wellington to Melling Cycleway Co-ordination'. Mr Tripp and Mr Bakker emphasised the public safety and health benefits of a Wellington to Melling cycleway. In addition, they noted that a co-operative effort between the relevant local authorities, GWRC and NZTA is necessary if the project is going to be a success.

The Committee discussed the possibility of forming a subcommittee to make decisions on this project, and the opportunity for NZTA to work more closely with relevant councils. NZTA will investigate using resources from their 'National Cycling' team and report back to the RTC at the next meeting before moving forward.

2.1 2014/15 Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Land Transport Plan

The Committee was presented with the Annual Monitoring Report that reports on the progress made in 2014/15 towards implementing the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015. The report provided an overview of progress against strategic objectives and outcomes. Not all data was available for this report due to some data only being available annually or as part of the Census. In some cases new reporting mechanisms are also currently still in development.

2.2 Progress on Projects in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015

The Committee was updated on the current status and progress of projects included in the Regional Land Transport Plan. Thirteen of the major projects prioritised in the RLTP are currently underway, with 11 progressing on schedule.

The Committee noted that there have been concerns from some councils about NZTA's proposed approach to directly appoint New Zealand Transport Ticketing Limited to operate integrated fares and ticketing systems in the Wellington Region. Some councils are of the view that an open tender would be preferable, and that this would be more in line with good procurement practice.

Mayor Wade-Brown tabled a letter written by her, addressed to the NZTA Board outlining some of Wellington City Council's concerns on this matter.

2.3 Proposed Variation to the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2015: Sealing and widening Hutt River Trail

The Committee endorsed, for approval by Council, the variation of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 to include the new activity 'Sealing and widening Hutt River Trail' at the request of Upper Hutt City Council. The Committee noted that the activity had previously been provided for in the UHCC's Long Term Plan, and was programmed to be completed over a ten year period. However, with the additional funding available from the Urban Cycleway Fund and National Land Transport Fund the project will now be completed within the next three financial years.

2.4 Update on Public Transport projects

The Committee was updated on Public Transport projects in the Wellington Region. Greater Wellington Regional Council will select a preferred tender for the operation of the regions rail network on 16 December with the successful tenderer to commence operations in July 2016. The tender for the bus network will open in April 2016.

The Committee was informed that the Government had advised that Super Goldcard funding will be frozen at 2015 levels. This will mean that funding for growth would need to be covered by GWRC. There are concerns because these additional costs have not been budgeted for, and might have to be passed on to the ratepayer. The Committee will be informed of developments on this matter at future meetings.

2.5 Update on State Highway Projects

The Committee was updated on State Highway Projects in the Wellington Region and the Ngauranga to Airport programme. The N2A Governance Group has formed four distinct workstreams which will work on different aspects of the project. There will be a focus on ensuring open and constructive engagement takes place, with an initial step being on working with the community and key groups to determine how they wish to be engaged.

The Committee noted the number and scale of planned and current investment in transport projects within the region and indicated a desire to raise public awareness around the scale of these projects through the media.

3. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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Report approved by:

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Committee