

UNCONFIRMED



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 4 December 2008
Time: 10.15am
Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Present:

RTC

Cr A Dick – Chairman – HBRC
Cr T Gilbertson – HBRC
Cr K Furlong – NCC
Cr N Speers – HDC
Cr T Kingston - CHBDC
Mayor L Probert – WDC
I Hunter NZTA – Programme Partnerships
J Chetwynd – NZTA
Martin Matthew – NZTA
Elizabeth Shaw - NZTA
C Wallace – Public Safety Rep
D Murray – Access and Mobility Rep
M Douglas – Economic rep
John Freeman – CHBDC
K le Geyt

Advisory –

G Cowie - Coastal

In attendance:

Elizabeth Shaw, Ministry of Transport
Martin Matthews, Ministry of Transport
John Freeman, CHBDC

TAG

R Bramley – NZTA – Transport Planning
D Elers – NZTA – Programme Partnerships
J Pannu – HDC – Transportation
M Clews – HDC – Planning
N Cook – WDC - Transportation
J Schwass – NCC – Transportation
S McKinley – CHBDC- Transportation
C Gilbertson – HBRC – Public Transport
C Perley – HBRC – Planning
H Codlin - HBRC – Planning
M Drury – HBRC – Admin Support

Chairman Dick welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Mr Martin Matthews Secretary for Ministry of Transport and Jenny Chetwynd – Regional Director of NZTA.

Chairman Dick also advised that Agenda Item 10 Development of the Regional Land Transport Plan would be considered out of order.

A Proposed Timetable for meeting dates of the Regional Transport Committee for 2009 was distributed to all Committee members.

Ms Chetwynd gave the Committee a brief outline of her new role as Regional Director of NZTA and also a list of her credentials and qualifications.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Messrs A Bramley, A Thompson, B Lewis and J Emmerson and from Dr C McElnay.

**Gilbertson/Kingston
CARRIED**

2. SHORT TERM REPLACEMENTS ON COMMITTEE

Allowance has been made in the terms of reference of the Committee for short term replacements to be appointed to the Committee where the usual member/s cannot attend.

Resolution:

That Mrs Kerry le Geyt and Mr Neil Cook be appointed as members of the Regional Transport Committee of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the Technical Advisory Group respectively for the meeting on Thursday 4 December 2008 as short term replacement(s) for Dr C McElnay and Mr B Lewis respectively.

**Cowie/Probert
CARRIED**

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 17 July 2008, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

**Kingston/Furlong
CARRIED**

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008

There were no matters arising.

5. NOTES FROM WORKSHOPS HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2008 & 6 OCTOBER 2008

Resolution:

That the Committee receives the notes for the Workshops held on 26 September 2008 and 6 October 2008.

**Speers/Probert
CARRIED**

Rail Advisory Representation

Ms Codlin advised that to date there had been no further progress with the appointment of a rail advisory representation to the committee.

6. ACTION ITEMS FROM RLTC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Passing Lanes on SH2

Ms Elers updated the Committee on progress with the SH2 passing lanes and the Committee viewed examples of signs which would be placed on the back of trucks using SH2.

Ms Elers also advised that letters were currently being signed by truck drivers to agree to compliance requests and on 17 December a stakeholders group would be travelling to Wairoa in an unloaded logging truck and returning with a full load for educational purposes.

Great support had been received from the Central Road Transports Association, along with Pan Pac and other users of the road.

Mr Bramley advised that another group would be travelling to Wairoa in late January/early February and if members were interested in joining the group, please contact himself or Ms Elers.

Resolution:

That Committee receives the report "Action Items from Regional Transport Committee Meetings and Workshops

**Gilbertson/Kingston
CARRIED**

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no items of general business.

8. REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

Mr Perley advised that the Land Transport Management Act (LTMA), as amended by the Land Transport Management Amendment Act, contains a number of provisions where Regional Transport Committees (RTCs) need to decide implementation process. The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) provided guidelines for this implementation detail in order to encourage a consistent approach in preparing the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). (Section 16 of the Act, which outlines the content of an RLTP is reproduced in Appendix 1). These amendments had been discussed by the Hawke's Bay Technical Advisory Group (TAG); Manawatu-Wanganui RTC had already adopted the proposed amendments to these guidelines.

Assessment Criteria

Mr Perley outlined the Assessment Factors and noted that additional factors not already captured would have to be specific to the activity or combination of activities and relevant to determining its overall priority in the programme.

Significance Policy

Concerns were expressed by the TAG group with regard to the NZTA guideline Significance policy for variation to Regional Land Transport Programmes (LMTA s18A(4), S18B(4)(1) and s103(2) which stated:

- *A scope change costing less than 10 percent of the approved allocation but not more than \$4.5 million, irrespective of the source of funding.*

The group favoured an amendment which was less restrictive but did not significantly alter the original objectives of the project.

Mr Hunter expressed concern over the proposed replacement clause as it left the determination for significance to the RTC and therefore was not an appropriate policy. He noted that the decision on this matter is not critical in terms of timing as it relates to variations of Regional Land Transport Programmes and that other Committees were also in the process of adopting the significance policy. NZTA could circulate the various suggestions being considered and adopted by other RTCs for TAG's review and report back in January.

Minor capital works

Mr Perley advised that TAG also has concerns with regard to the NZTA definition of minor capital works in relation to a project spanning two districts which should not be classified as "minor". Ms Chetwynd asked whether the 'regional arterial routes' had been defined for this region. TAG is to consider the definition of a regional arterial route within Hawke's Bay and report back to the January meeting

Resolution:

That the Committee:

1. Approves the adoption of the New Zealand Transport Agency's assessment and prioritisation process for the Regional Land Transport Programme to maintain consistency with NZTA approval processes.

**Kingston/Chetwynd
CARRIED**

2. Approves the following policy for determining the significance (for consultation purposes) of amendments or variations to regional land transport programmes.

"The following amendments or variations to the regional land transport programme are considered to be not significant for purposes of consultation:

- *Activities that are in the urgent interests of public safety;*
- *New preventive maintenance and emergency reinstatement activities in accordance with sections 9.7 and 9.8 of this manual (the Programme and Funding Manual);*
- *Addition of an activity or activities that have previously been consulted on in accordance with section 17 and 18 of the Land Transport Management Act and which the Regional Transport Committee considers complies with the provisions for funding approval in accordance with section 20 of the Land Transport Management Act;*
- ***A scope change that does not significantly alter the original objectives of the project (to be determined by the Regional Transport Committee).***
- *Replacement of a project within a group of generic projects by another project of the same type."*

3. Approves the following definition of “minor capital works” for the purpose of determining which activities should be excluded from regional prioritisation during regional land transport programme preparation.

Minor capital works are capital projects associated with local roads, including associated property purchase, that meet all the following criteria

- *have a capital cost of less than or equal to \$4.5 million*
- *are not on a regional arterial route*
- *do not use C or R funds.*

Agreed that Recommendations 2 and 3 Lie on Table

9. NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY FUNDING UPDATE

Ms Codlin advised that following concern expressed by a number of Regional Councils and Regional Transport Committees in relation to NZTA's decision to fund seal extensions and pavement smoothing activities from R funding instead of N funding , the NZTA had reviewed its decision on allocating R funds to certain activities previously funded by N funds. The NZTA decision results in this region's seal extensions and pavement smoothing programmes approved from N funds in the 2008/09 year would still be funded from N funds as long as they are consistent with the GPS but the NZTA policy would remain in subsequent years with activities with a profile of MMH or lower coming from R Funds.

Following discussion by the Committee, Mr Hunter confirmed that any projects which had been approved in 2008/09 but were spread over 2 years would still be funded by N funds but all other projects would come from R funding.

Mr Hunter advised that when projects were assessed by RTCs, there were clear guidelines in place so RTCs would be aware of where the project would be funded from. If the project had a significant safety benefit, these projects would be funded from N funds.

The Committee also agreed that this decision has had an impact on priority list projects as determined by this Committee and a letter be written expressing the Committee's concerns.

Resolution:

1. That the Committee receives the update report on the New Zealand Transport Agency funding policy decision and continues to express its concern to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

**Kingston/Douglas
CARRIED**

2. That the Committee advocate to NZTA, the Ministry of Transport and government its continued concerns with the new policy, specifically:
 - The appropriateness of addressing a national funding problem using regional funds; and
 - The uncertainty and difficulty it presents in relation to the regional prioritisation of projects;

and that an equitable and consistent approach is sought.

**Probert/Gilbertson
CARRIED
J Chetwynd – abstained**

11 UPDATE ON PASSENGER TRANSPORT ISSUES

Mrs Gilbertson gave the Committee an update on issues relating to passenger transport, including proposed zone and fare changes effective from 2 February 2009; the proposed introduction of Smart Cards from 2 February 2009; proposed bus service improvements over the next three years and an update on the Total Mobility scheme.

Mrs Gilbertson described the proposed 2 zone structure and its boundaries and noted that to date 75% of tickets purchased were for 2 zones. It was felt that there had also been a lot of overriding and the 2 zone structure would alleviate this problem.

Mrs Gilbertson confirmed that prior to the new bus provider coming in on 2 February 2009, an updated publicity campaign would be undertaken. It was also proposed to implement the Smart Card system from 2 February 2009.

It was noted by the Committee that as part of the submission to LTP Online an aggressive improvement plan for bus services had been proposed for 2009/10 instead of 2010/11 which would result in an increase in targeted rate funding. After consideration of the impacts of these improvements on the targeted passenger transport rate, the Committee agreed to look at a staged approach to implement any service improvements.

Resolutions:

1. That the Regional Transport Committee endorse the proposed 2 zone structure, to take effect from 2 February 2009, subject to regular review.
2. That the Regional Transport Committee endorse the proposed new fare structure, to take effect from 2 February 2009.
3. That the Regional Transport Committee note the update on the Total Mobility Scheme.
4. That the Committee endorses the improvement plan for the bus services with an indicative 2 year staged approach consistent with the Regional Passenger Transport Plan.

**Furlong/Gilbertson
CARRIED**

12. MINUTES OF ROADS SAFE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2008 & 6 OCTOBER 2008

Mrs Gilbertson advised the committee that application for a 0.5 staff position in the 2009/10 year instead of 2010/11 had been made. This position would be a co-ordinator's role based in Napier and 75% of the funding would come from NZTA.

Resolution:

1. That Committee receives the minutes of the Roadsafe Sub-Committee meetings held on 17 July 2008 and 6 October 2008

**Gilbertson/Furlong
CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm and reconvened at 12.45pm

Messrs Douglas, Cowie and McIntyre left the meeting

10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

Ms Codlin gave the Committee an overview of the development of a regional land transport programme (RLTP), the total costs of the projects that have been submitted by the approved organisations (the four territorial authorities, NZTA and the Regional Council), and identified the programmes that will need to be prioritised.

Councillor McIntyre returned to the meeting at 1.00pm

Mr Pannu explained that as part of Hastings District Council projects for inclusion in the Hawke's Bay Initial prioritisation & New Improvement Budgets allowance had been made for Park "N Ride facilities as part of the Public Transportation Plans.

The Committee discussed whether this project should be considered as part of a Regional Study. Mr Clews confirmed that such a study on public infrastructure will be part of the Heretaunga Plains study.

The Committee discussed 'Appendix 3 Update all Projects', noted the projects which had already been completed, were advised on progress with the Southern Expressway extension – No 4 on the list and the Prebensen Drive/Hydrabad Road ext – No 3 and suggested deletions from the list.

Concern was expressed by Mayor Probert and Councillor McIntyre with regard to SH38 Seal Extension placed at No 27 on the list. Councillor McIntyre outlined the history of this project and requested that an approach be made to NZTA for this project to be considered as a "special case". Mayor Probert suggested that the project could be completed in stages over several years.

Resolution:

That the Committee confirm that Appendix 3 Update all Projects (attached) as amended as an indicative priority list for all major projects.

**Kingston/Probert
CARRIED.**

Mrs Le Geyt left the meeting at 1.50pm

Chairman Dick requested that TLA representatives summarise their projects included in the Hawke's Bay Initial Prioritisation & New Improvement Appendix 3 and noted that NZTA Hawke's Bay Highway network projects were not yet available.

Mr Bramley advised that NZTA Hawke's Bay would be undertaking a survey around the cycle/walking tracks within the region to identify the remaining gaps in the project.

Mayor Probert and Councillor Furlong left the meeting at 2.00pm

Following a brief discussion on the development of regional transport priorities, it was agreed that the TAG group meet before Christmas to discuss the key regional priorities so that the statement around issues and priorities could be prepared.

Mr McKinlay requested that representatives on the TAG could nominate an alternate member to cover absences.

Chairman Dick advised the meeting that it was hoped that investigations in the planning and implementation of a Regional Fuel tax would commence in September 2009 and sought the Committee's agreement to this proposal.

Resolution:

That the Committee :

1. Receives the report on the Regional Land Transport Programme Overview and Process.

2. Confirm that an investigation into the implementation of a Regional Fuel Tax will commence in September 2009.

**Gilbertson/Kingston
CARRIED**

Closure:

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2.25pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

DATE:

CHAIRMAN: