



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Unconfirmed

- Date:** Friday 23 April 2010
- Time:** 10.15am
- Venue:** Council Chamber  
Hawke's Bay Regional Council  
159 Dalton Street  
NAPIER
- Present:** Cr A Dick – Chairman – Hawke's Bay Regional Council  
Cr T Gilbertson – Hawke's Bay Regional Council  
Cr M Twigg – Hastings District Council  
Cr K Furlong- Napier City Council  
Cr T Kingston – Central Hawke's Bay District Council  
Mayor L Probert – Wairoa District Council  
J Chetwynd – New Zealand Transport Agency  
C Wallace – Public Safety  
T Ashworth– Public Health  
D Murray – Access and Mobility  
M Douglas – Economic Development  
A Bramley – Environmental Sustainability  
K Santer – Advisory - Kiwi Rail  
C Bain – Coastal Advisory - PONL
- In Attendance:** H Codlin - HBRC  
C Gilbertson – HBRC  
M Kinvig - NZTA  
D Fraser - HDC  
E Shaw – Ministry of Transport  
L Anderson – Road Safe Co-ordinator HB  
M Drury – Minute Secretary

**1. WELCOME**

Chairman Dick welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to Mr Kim Santer –Kiwi Rail Manager Hawkes Bay.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Messrs J Pannu, J Schwass, B Lewis, J Emmerson, S McKinley, R Bramley, and Ms D Elers.

**Gilbertson/Probert  
CARRIED**

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**4. SHORT TERM REPLACEMENTS ON COMMITTEE**

**Resolution:**

That Councillor Margaret Twigg be appointed as a member of the Regional Transport Committee of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for the meeting on Friday, 23 April 2010 as short term replacement for Councillor N Speers.

**Gilbertson/Furlong  
CARRIED**

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2010**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 18 February 2010, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

**Probert/Murray  
CARRIED**

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2010**

There were no matters arising.

**7. ACTION ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Ms Codlin and Committee members gave an update on items on the Action List and the following points were noted:

**State Highway 38 – Request for Sealing**

- NZTA are still in contact with the original complainant and sealing is almost complete
- DHB had received complaints re dust and a dust monitor had been requested
- A substantial amount of work had been undertaken by Wairoa District Council to prepare a submission to Government for the sealing of SH38 and thanks were extended to the Regional Transport Committee for its support. The submission is due to be sent in a few weeks time.

**Coastal Study being conducted by Port of Napier Ltd**

Mr Bain advised that the study covering Gisborne and Hawke's Bay was completed in December and a final draft is now with NZTA but at this point in time the document is still not a public document. In response NZTA advised that a delay had occurred in the release of the document because they wished to release the findings in conjunction with a similar document received from the Taranaki region.

## **Walking and Cycling Model Communities**

Mr Fraser advised that Phase 2 of the application closes on Friday, 30 April. This Phase has built on the natural strengths in the region and the synergies across district boundaries.

Councillor Twigg advised that Hastings was now one of 4 cities selected as finalists from 22 other towns for NZTA's \$7 million package which would be used to get people on their bikes or into their walking shoes.

### **Resolution:**

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

**Douglas/Chetwynd  
CARRIED**

## **8. CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS**

- (a) Letter from Mayor – CHBDC – re Waipukurau to Waipawa Cycleway
- (b) Future of Stock Effluent Disposal Site
- (c) Update on Passing Bays on SH2 Napier-Gisborne

## **9. DEMAND MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY PROGRAMME – DRAFT ACTIVITY LIST FOR 2010-2011/12**

Mrs Gilbertson advised that funding to 30 June 2010 would be extended for 3 months in order for NZTA to assess the activity list for the Demand Management Community Programme (RoadSafe) activity class which has to be submitted to NZTA by the end of May. Funding for this programme would be available for 2 years with key priority areas being targeted.

Mrs Anderson outlined the reference documents which would be used in order to rank regional projects in order of priority.

Following a suggestion by Inspector Wallace that all Committee members should receive a copy of the Communities at Risk document, Ms Chetwynd undertook to have further discussions with Ms Elers regarding this.

### **Resolution:**

That the Committee endorses in principle, the draft Activity List for Demand Management Community Programme:

**Furlong.Probert  
CARRIED**

## **10. SUPERGOLD CARD SUBMISSION**

Mrs Gilbertson sought comment from the Committee on a draft submission which had been prepared for a consultation document – Options to Change SuperGold Card Free Off-Peak Public Transport travel Scheme issued by NZTA and the Ministry of Transport.

Following discussion by the Committee on the proposed introduction of a photo ID on cards, an amendment was made to Question 5 of the draft submission to reflect that the

Committee only supported this if the problem it sought to solve was significant and the solution cost effective.

The Committee also noted that the consultation document was also open to the public to lodge a submission.

**Resolution:**

That following amendment, the Committee approves the SuperGold Card Submission to be sent to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

**Kingston/Douglas  
CARRIED**

**11. FREIGHT TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Ms Codlin advised that this agenda item sought the Committee's endorsement of the establishment of a Freight Transport Working Group based on the Draft Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1.

Ms Codlin advised with a number of transport initiatives underway both nationally and regionally the Tag Advisory Group considered it appropriate that a working group be set up with the purpose, objectives and membership of the Working Group detailed in the draft Terms of Reference. Ms Codlin also advised that the draft Terms of Reference had been reviewed and endorsed by Messrs Brian Pritchard from Panpac and Mr Chris Bain from Port of Napier Limited with a suggestion that the membership of the Party also include the Primary Sector.

The Committee considered the Objectives and suggested some amendments to give an extended focus - Objective 1 – remove the word 'movement'; Objective 2 add 'taking into account the connectivity between SHs and local Roads'; Objective 4 insert 'and provide advice as to' before 'how it is to be implemented'.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Freight Transport Working Group**

**Background**

There are a number of transport initiatives underway both nationally and regionally and given the government's focus on economic productivity, many of these relate to freight transport. National initiatives include the development of a National Freight Plan which will incorporate the identification of key freight routes and the classification of State Highways. The new Vehicle Dimension and Mass Rule has direct implications for the freight transport industry. A freight analysis of the central region (Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui and Taranaki) has recently been undertaken by NZTA Central Region.

At a regional level, work is underway to update the Heretaunga Plains Transport Model and to look at wider regional transport issues in preparation for the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

The freight industry is an important stakeholder in all of those initiatives. The Regional Transport Committee wishes to ensure that this stakeholder group is engaged, informs these initiatives in a timely manner and is informed of national transport issues that may affect them.

It is noted that this broader group has evolved from a group of industry stakeholders that were invited to discuss the implications of the new Vehicle Dimension and Mass regulations. While Government has signalled that the priorities for the application of the VDM rule will be Auckland Waikato and Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay in the fourth in the priority list so it is appropriate that the Hawke's Bay region understands how the new rule could improve freight transport efficiencies.

## **Purpose**

To engage the freight industry in transport strategies and initiatives in the region.

## **Objectives**

- Engage with the Industry representatives and share knowledge on freight issues.
- Identify 'industry priority' freight routes, taking into account the connectivity between State Highways and local roads.
- Consider industry issues and priorities in relation to the Central Region Freight Analysis Report and the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- Gain a clear understanding of the new VDM rule and provide advice as to how it is to be implemented.
- Identify roading infrastructure that might need to be upgraded should the VDM rule apply to priority routes.

## **Membership**

Membership will comprise representatives from:

- NZTA
- local authorities
- Recognised industry organisations such as the Road Transport Association (RTA) and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT)
- Primary Sector
- The Hawke's Bay Forestry Group

It is proposed that the RTA and the CILT be invited to nominate appropriate industry representation and the HB Primary Producers' Round Table be invited to nominate representative for the primary sector.

The objective representatives on the Regional Transport Committee will also be invited to attend as they see fit.

## **Administration of the Working Group**

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council will provide the administrative support for the Freight Transport Working Group and will convene and facilitate the meetings based on a prepared agenda. All members will be invited to put forward items for the agenda.

## **Reporting**

The Working Group shall report as appropriate to the Regional Transport Committee.

## **Meeting Frequency**

Meetings will be convened on an as required basis, largely being determined by the timing of the various initiatives and the need to seek input or to prepare information to inform those initiatives.

As approved by Regional Transport Committee 23 April 2010

Responding to a question from Chairman Dick, Ms Codlin confirmed that there would not be any formal reporting lines but reports from the Working Party could form part of the Regional Transport Committee's agenda. Reporting procedures are to be noted in the Terms of Reference.

The Committee also considered that the Hawke's Bay Forestry Group should be listed as a member in the Group.

## **Resolution**

The Committee recommends that Council:

1. Agrees that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted policy on significance and that Council can exercise its discretion under Sections 79(1)(a) and 82(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community and persons likely to be affected by or to have an interest in the decision due to the nature and significance of the issue to be considered and decided.
2. Approves the establishment of a Freight Transport Working Group based on the attached draft Terms of Reference as amended at the Regional Transport Meeting.

**Gilbertson/Douglas**  
**CARRIED**

## **12. REVIEW OF CONCESSIONARY BUS FARE**

Mrs Gilbertson advised that Council had been alerted by Go Bus to the fact that the concessionary fare for beneficiaries was being widely abused with latest figures available indicating there had been a 64% increase in beneficiary tickets issued since February 2009. Go Bus drivers were having difficulty enforcing the beneficiary fare and were often subject to verbal abuse and threatening behaviour.

Mrs Gilbertson also advised it was the intention to remove the concessionary fare for beneficiaries and disabled persons but retain a concession fare for tertiary students as a large number of EIT students travel on the buses and provided student ID for their discounted travel.

Mr Douglas expressed concern that beneficiaries and disabled people who had genuine reasons for obtaining a concessionary fare would be disadvantaged under the proposed new scheme because of certain people who wished to abuse the system.

The Committee discussed the removal of the concession fare for beneficiaries and disabled persons and agreed that advice should be sought from the Ministry of Social Development on how to attempt to solve the abuse of the concessionary fare. Chairman Dick also suggested that a sub group of the Committee be formed to consider

a satisfactory outcome to this problem and report back to the Committee by email and in the meantime this agenda item would lie on the table.

**Resolution:**

That the Committee delegate responsibility to a sub committee consisting of Chairman Dick, David Murray, Councillor Furlong and Mrs Gilbertson to further investigate solutions to the abuse of the concessionary fare and report back to the Committee by email.

**Douglas/Kingston  
CARRIED**

### **13. CENTRAL REGION FREIGHT ANALYSIS**

Ms Codlin summarised the key points from the New Zealand Transport Agency Central Region Freight Analysis report which was commissioned by NZTA as part of a National Freight Plan and its guidelines. It will also support infrastructure improvement project assessments aligned to NZTA's strategic investment direction and form a base for any subsequent strategic studies for the region.

Mr Bain said that although he was pleased with the outcome of the report he expressed concern that although the method adopted to obtain data for the report was the best under the circumstances there were errors in the report. Mr Bain stated that if the Ports are the drivers of the economic activity within a region, movement of land transport i.e. road and rail are also affected and therefore it was important that the statistics were correct.

Ms Chetwynd advised that NZTA were going to engage with local parties in the region during the next 3 months over the State Highway classification system and also test the proposed criteria as set out in the draft report. Responding to a question from Chairman Dick, Ms Chetwynd confirmed that it was important that the criteria which would assist in the final classification of Prebensen Drive as a freight route was correct prior to a decision being confirmed.

The Committee also considered the impact the National Freight Plan would have on highways like the Napier Taihape Road where it was hoped the road would become part of the SH network. It would be disappointing for the proposed status of the route to be lost under the proposed plans particularly as the project which was due to be completed in three years had been fully funded

Following further discussion by the Committee about the National Infrastructure Plan, it was considered a strong leadership role was required in order to highlight that issues which were not just freight issues but issues which related to the whole region. Messrs Dick, Douglas, Bain and Fraser and Ms Codlin are to meet to discuss further the regional issues to be advocated to government in relation to the Plan.

**Resolution:**

That the Committee receives the NZTA Central Region report on the Central Region Freight Analysis and compliments the Port of Napier Ltd representative on his initiative to correct statistical errors.

**Dick/Douglas  
CARRIED**

### **14. NAPIER/GISBORNE RAIL SERVICE**

Chairman Dick advised that following a news item where the Minister of Transport had said that decisions would be made by Budget time on the prospective closure or mothballing of three rail routes including the Napier to Gisborne line, he wrote to the

Minister about the potential closure and requested the Regional Transport Committee be kept informed on any developments.

Chairman Dick then introduced Mr Kim Santer, HB Regional Manager for Kiwi Rail who gave the Committee an outline of steps underway by Kiwi Rail to improve the commercial opportunities on the Napier to Gisborne line. Mr Sander stated that the line was fully operational with maintenance undertaken as necessary and gave recent examples of where the line, which had been described as one of the most scenic lines in the country, had been used by Transcenic for an overnight excursion trip.

Mr Sander described the commercial movements the line currently runs by Ravensdown and Heinz Wattie on a seasonal basis and advised that ongoing discussions were being held with Port of Napier Ltd in relation to developing initiatives to increase cargo levels to and from the Port. Mr Bain stated that it would be better to use rail in commercial terms if the tonnage was there. Consideration also needed to be given to the best equation for the cargo that was being carried.

**Resolution:**

That the Committee receives the information and confirms its belief that the Napier-Gisborne railway line should be maintained, to provide modal choice and that it will monitor rail sector developments carefully.

**Dick/Gilbertson  
CARRIED**

**15. PASSENGER TRANSPORT UPDATE**

Mrs Gilbertson gave the Committee an update on passenger transport issues noting that the passenger numbers for March 2010 reflected the highest revenue figures since the service was introduced in February 2009.

Mrs Gilbertson advised that a meeting had been held with representatives from Hastings District Council about the potential linking of the express bus services and the building of bus shelters if Hastings bid to become the country's Model Town was successful.

Mrs Gilbertson also complimented Napier City Council on the completion of the marking of all bus stops in Napier and clarified the reasons why the Dalton Street bus shelter would not proceed.

The Committee then discussed the Bikes on Buses rule to allow bike racks to be fitted without the need for an exemption. This rule would come into force on 1 May 2010 following a trial in Christchurch. The Committee requested that Mrs Gilbertson have discussions with Go Bus to determine whether bike racks could be fitted to the region's buses and report back to the next Committee meeting.

**Resolution:**

1. That the Committee:
  - 1.1. Agrees that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted policy on significance and that Council can exercise its discretion under Sections 79(1)(a) and 82(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community and persons likely to be affected by or to have an interest in the decision due to the nature and significance of the issue to be considered and decided.
  - 1.2. Receives the report "Update on Passenger Transport Issues"

**Twigg/Chetwynd  
CARRIED**

## 16. PROGRESS REPORT ON REGIONAL/JOINT PROJECTS

Ms Codlin updated the Committee on the progress of regional and/or jointly funded projects contained in the National Land Transport Programme for Hawke's Bay.

### Resolution:

That the Committee receives the Progress Report on Regional/Jointly Funded projects.

**Probert/Gilbertson  
CARRIED**

## 17. NZTA CENTRAL REGION REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms Chetwynd presented her first report in a new format which updated the Committee on key NZ Transport Agency projects, initiatives in the Hawke's Bay region and other national items which were of interest to the RTC.

Mr Kinvig showed a presentation which highlighted progress on current projects including SH2 Matahorua Gorge, SH50a and the opening of the SH2 Waipukurau Overbridge Realignment. Mr Kinvig also noted that the stock truck Effluent Disposal site on Glengarry Road would be completed at the end of May.

Councillor Kingston in moving the recommendation congratulated NZTA on the successful opening ceremony of the new SH2 Waipukurau Overbridge.

### Resolution:

1. That the Committee
  - 1.1 Receives NZTA Central Region Regional Director's report dated April 2010
  - 1.2 Congratulates NZTA on the successful opening ceremony of the new SH2 Waipukurau Overbridge.

**Kingston/Gilbertson  
CARRIED**

**Mr Douglas left the meeting at 12.05pm**

## 18. OBJECTIVE AND ADVISORY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

The Objective and Advisory representatives provided the Committee with verbal update reports and the following highlights were noted:

### Tracey Ashworth – Public Health

Noted that they have been working with Hastings District Council on the Walking Model Communities application.

### Alistair Bramley – Environmental

Noted recent research on children cycling to school and as a result of them feeling unsafe in cycling corridors, there had been a reduction in this activity. This result highlighted the importance to find a solution for safety on the roads so that cycling could occur in a safe environment.

### Access Mobility – David Murray

Noted the AAs and Decade of Action for Road Safety campaign, that cyclists are concerned about pedestrian crossing abutments positioned in cycle lanes which could be dangerous.

### Safety – Inspector Chris Wallace

- Congratulations to NZTA on the successful completion of Dillons Hill road improvements and SH2 Waipukurau Overbridge;

- Not wearing seatbelts was a trend which had occurred in local crashes over the Easter holiday break;
- Acknowledged the great assistance from ACC and Road Safe Hawke's Bay in a recent drink/drive campaign undertaken on the Expressway;
- Following release of recent statistics, drink drive charges had increased over the last three years;

**Resolution:**

That the Committee receives the verbal reports of the Objective and Advisory Representatives.

**Probert/Gilbertson  
CARRIED**

**19. CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Letter from Mayor – CHBDC – re Waipukurau to Waipawa cycleway**

Councillor Kingston explained that this letter had been sent to Chairman Dick in error - the letter was sent to the Hon. Minister for Transport and a copy only should have been received by Chairman Dick.

**Stock Truck Effluent Disposal Site in Wairoa**

Chairman Dick advised that a stock truck effluent disposal site in Wairoa was no longer provided for in HBRC budget as a result of a budget review but it may be considered in the Transport Strategy Review.

**Update on Passing Bays on SH2 Napier-Gisborne**

Following a request from Mayor Probert, Mr Kinvig updated progress on the passing bays on SH2 Napier-Gisborne. An agenda item on the topic is to be included for the July meeting.

**Closure:**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.55pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

**DATE:** .....

**CHAIRMAN:** .....