

# Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Environment Bay of Plenty, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on Friday, 3 September 2010 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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## **Present:**

**Chairman:** Councillor J Nees (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**Deputy Chairman:** Councillor A von Dadelszen (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**Appointees:** Councillor R Chase (Kawerau District Council)  
Councillor G Searancke (Rotorua District Council)  
Councillor M Williams (Alternate, Western Bay of Plenty District Council)  
Mayor S Crosby (Tauranga City Council)  
Mayor J Forbes (Opotiki District Council)  
Mayor C Holmes (Whakatane District Council)  
Mayor R Paterson (Mayor, Western Bay of Plenty District Council)  
R James (Alternate, New Zealand Transport Agency Representative)  
B Pointon (Public Health Representative)  
N Pope (Access and Mobility Representative)  
T Reynish (Economic Development Representative)  
T Richardson (Environmental Sustainability Representative)  
M Tapsell (Cultural Interests Representative)  
Inspector K Taylor (Safety and Personal Security Representative)

**In Attendance:** G Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development), M Macleod (Acting Chief Executive), E Hatch (Acting Transport Policy Manager), M Calvert (Senior Transport Planner), B Healey (Transport Planner), K Mackenzie (Transport Planner) P Sisam (Senior Communications) and P Maxwell (Committee Secretary) of Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

C Brodie, J Joyce and A McKillop (NZ Transport Agency), K Thompson (Rotorua District Council), J Paterson (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Councillor N Barker and B McMaster (Environment Waikato).

**Apologies:** Mayor R Paterson (Western Bay of Plenty District Council) and H Wilson (Regional Manager, NZ Transport Agency)

The Chair also noted the lateness of S Collett (KiwiRail) who arrived at 9.50am and B Walsh (Ministry of Transport) who arrived at 9.58am.

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## **1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Councillor Norm Barker and staff from Environment Waikato.

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## 2 Reports

### 2.1 Flood Damage and Route Security in the Eastern Bay of Plenty

Refer PowerPoint 1.

Mayor Forbes made a presentation to the Committee that outlined the impacts of flood events on route security within the eastern Bay of Plenty sub-region.

Mayor Forbes indicated that Opotiki and Whakatane District Councils would be looking at a total cost of \$4.5m for repairing flood damage over the last 12 months which would equate to a 3-4% increase on rates which impacts significantly on its ratepayers. It was noted that costs were still increasing as slips were still occurring. Mayor Forbes noted that although Wainui Road was not a State Highway it was the cheapest and most practical option to upgrade to provide secure access during flood events.

Garry Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development) advised members that NZTA was working through its route security strategy for the eastern Bay of Plenty.

Rod James (State Highway Manager, NZTA) informed members that the truck route by-passing the slip on State highway 2 at Maraenui Bluffs was expected to be opened by Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010 which would provide an alternate route to the East Cape area.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Flood Damage and Route Security in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.**

**Nees/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**

### 2.2 Regional Land Transport Programme 2009/12 Update

Garry Maloney presented the report that updated the Committee on changes and variations to the Regional Land Transport Programme since the previous meeting.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Programme 2009/12 Update.**

**Nees/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**

## 2.3 **KiwiRAP**

Refer PowerPoint 2.

Colin Brodie (New Zealand Transport Agency National Safety Engineer) made a presentation to the Committee on the New Zealand Roding Assessment Programme (KiwiRAP). Mr Brodie explained the focus of KiwiRAP and the methodology of the KiwiRAP Star Rating system, including what elements were rated.

The presentation also included examples of roads that had been given a star rating from one to five. He then highlighted on a table the star rating for Bay of Plenty State highways and compared them nationally. He stated that vehicles mainly travelled on two and three star networks within the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions.

### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, KiwiRAP.**

**Nees/Chase  
CARRIED**

## 2.4 **Port of Tauranga**

Refer PowerPoint 3.

Tony Reynish, Economic Development Representative on the Committee and Property Manager for Port of Tauranga made a presentation to the Committee on the development and future plans for the Port of Tauranga. Mr Reynish gave a brief overview of the Port of Tauranga including its corporate business structure and its strategic land holdings. He also highlighted the roading and rail links to the Port and noted that MetroPort was a key for the Port of Tauranga to service the Auckland area.

The presentation also identified issues facing the Port of Tauranga including the development required to enable 7,000 TEU vessels with a draught of 14m to call into the Port and the New Zealand Shipper's Council recommendation that the Port be the North Island International Hub Port. He noted that larger ships will become the mainstream in the future and that if ports did not upgrade to meet their needs, then New Zealand may run the risk of being relegated to using Australian ports as the hub for large ships in the Australasian region.

Members discussed the report further and received clarification on points raised.

### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Port of Tauranga.**

**Nees / Richardson  
CARRIED**

**Adjournment: The Meeting adjourned at 10.45 am and reconvened at 11.05 am.**

### 3 **Chairperson's Announcement**

The Chair announced that there would be a change to the order of the Agenda to allow Environment Waikato and the Ministry of Transport to make their presentations before they had to leave.

#### 3.1 **Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy**

Refer PowerPoint 4.

Norm Barker (Councillor for Environment Waikato (EW) and Chairman of the Waikato Regional Transport Committee) introduced himself and the draft Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS).

Bill McMaster (Manager Transport Policy) made a presentation to the Committee on the draft Waikato RLTS. The presentation identified key Waikato and Bay of Plenty issues including inter-regional strategic corridors, freight movement, cycling routes and road safety initiatives.

Councillor Barker noted that rail had been elevated since EW's last RLTS and that the biggest election issue in the Waikato was passenger rail from Hamilton to Auckland. EW was forming a working party before the October local body elections to work through the issue and would continue to do so following the elections. He also mentioned that EW was intending to set up an inter-regional workshop of the Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions with Minister Steven Joyce to look at the Upper North Freight Study and the KiwiRail turnaround plan.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy.**

**Forbes/Searancke  
CARRIED**

#### 3.2 **Ministry of Transport Update**

Refer PowerPoint 5.

Bernadine Walsh (Stakeholder Engagement, Ministry of Transport) was in attendance for the presentation of the report that provided the Committee with a comprehensive update from the Ministry of Transport (MoT) on its progress with the following National transport policies and issues:

- Cabinet had signed off on a package designed to reduce the impact of drink drivers. The package included a zero drink drive limit for recidivist drink drivers and drivers under 20 years of age, tougher penalties for serious offences and drink driving causing death and an introduction of alcohol interlocks for repeat drink drivers. Cabinet will also commission research to help it decide whether to lower the legal blood alcohol limit.
- Tauranga Eastern Link will be tolled, allowing construction to begin on the road in early 2011. While most of the money will come from the National Land Transport Fund, Cabinet has agreed to loan the NZTA the remaining funds which will be repaid through tolling the road.

- The NZ Shippers Council has released a report “The Question of Bigger Ships – Securing New Zealand’s International Supply Chain” and the Local Government Forum has released a report “Port Performance and Ownership”. Both reports were released before the Ports and Shipping NZ Summit in Auckland and Minister Steven Joyce spoke at the summit on port and shipping issues. The Minister did not believe that there was ‘urgency’ to consolidate ports. However, the MoT was gathering information on freight movements and port productivity to provide a reliable source of data for future planning.
- There will be an increase in Road User Charges (RUC) that will take effect on 1 October 2010.
- From next year, all taxis in the larger towns and cities will be fitted with security cameras to enhance the safety of both taxi drivers and passengers.
- The Minister for Infrastructure, Bill English, and other Cabinet Ministers had met to discuss infrastructure issues. Local government holds approximately \$84 billion in assets and shared the view of greater central and local government collaboration. This was one of the areas that would be developed further in the next National Infrastructure Plan.
- As part of the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) led review of the Resource Management Act (RMA), MoT was reviewing the Land Transport Management Act and how the RMA affects infrastructure proposals. At this stage there are no major changes to the LTMA proposed.
- Changes to the Give Way rule will be implemented and there will be improvements for the safety of motorcyclists.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Ministry of Transport Update.**

**Nees/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**

## **4 Announcement**

The Chair announced that there would be a further change to the order of the Agenda to allow important issues to be dealt with before some members had to leave.

### **4.1 Regional Land Transport Strategy Annual Report 2009/10**

Refer PowerPoint 6.

Kate Mackenzie (Transport Planner) made a presentation to the Committee on the Regional Land Transport Annual Report 2009/2010 and reported on the progress to date of certain performance indicators.

Ms Mackenzie used PowerPoint slides to support her presentation.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Strategy Annual Report 2009/10.**

**Nees/Williams  
CARRIED**

## **4.2 Regional Land Transport Strategy**

Refer PowerPoint 7.

Mike Calvert (Senior Transport Planner) spoke to his report that updated the Committee on progress with the review of the Bay of Plenty RLTS. The report also sought the Committee's approval to adopt in principle, the issues, outcomes and strategic option so that staff could further develop the RLTS.

Members discussed the strategic options further. There was consensus to adopt in principle the issues, outcomes and strategic option. However a concern was expressed that the RLTS document did not have enough detail on the strategic option while the Transport Futures document was too technical to understand. The Committee requested that more detail be provided on the mechanisms that would be used to implement the recommended strategic option. The Committee also requested that some of the terminology in the report be simplified for the general public to understand.

The Chair noted that the Strategy was an important document that would help unlock the funding needed for the future. Comments were sought by the Committee from NZTA and MoT on the national direction. Rod James (State Highway Manager, NZTA) identified sector outcomes being sought by the Minister and advised the Committee to put emphasis on those. Bernie Walsh (Stakeholder Engagement, Ministry of Transport) noted that the document was a 30 year strategy and was difficult to project, but that the Committee should focus on the three to ten year implementation of the strategy and ensure that it can be implemented in the short term.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Strategy.**
- 2 Adopts in principle the Issues, Outcomes and Strategic Option as contained in the draft Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Strategy appended to the report, Regional Land Transport Strategy**
- 3 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Richardson/Forbes  
CARRIED**

**Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12.50pm and reconvened at 1.20pm**

**Attendance: Mayor J Forbes, Mayor C Holmes, Mayor S Crosby, T Reynish and K Taylor left the meeting at 1.20pm**

#### **4.3 Regional Land Transport Strategy Engagement and Communications**

Kate Mackenzie (Transport Planner) spoke to the report that informed the Committee about the consultation plan, and community engagement to date for the RLTS.

Some members further discussed engagement with Maori and the Committee was advised that the RLTS project team was working closely with Regional Council's Māori Policy Unit to effectively engage with Maori of the region including key groups such as CNI Holdings.

Staff were commended on the report.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Strategy Engagement and Communications.**

**Nees/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**

#### **4.4 Development of the Regional Public Transport Plan**

Refer PowerPoint 8.

Emlyn Hatch (Acting Transport Policy Manager) presented the report that formally notified the Committee of the requirement to prepare the next Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP). The report also provided information on the background legislation and process for the development of the Plan.

Members were advised that the Regional Council had delegated responsibility for preparing the Draft Plan to its Transport Committee. Mr Hatch explained to the Committee that the current Plan did not have trigger points to address issues such as when additional buses were required and that those issues would be considered as part of the review.

Members received clarification on the Farebox recovery ratios for Tauranga and Rotorua.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Development of the Regional Public Transport Plan.**

**Nees/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**

**Attendance: Councillor G Searancke left the meeting at 1.44 pm**

#### 4.5 **Reconstituting the Regional Transport Committee after the October 2010 Local Body Elections**

Garry Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development) presented the report that sought the Committee's approval to recommend to Council that it re-appoint the current New Zealand Transport Strategy objectives and cultural interest representatives to the new Regional Transport Committee.

Members were advised that NZTA was undertaking an organisation re-structure that could affect who its representative on the Committee was.

### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receive the report, Reconstituting the Regional Transport Committee after the October 2010 Local Body Elections.**
- 2 Recommend to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council that it reappoint to the Regional Transport Committee:**
  - a. Tony Reynish to represent the objective of economic development;**
  - b. Inspector Kevin Taylor to represent the objective of safety and personal security;**
  - c. Brian Pointon to represent the objective of public health;**
  - d. Noel Pope to represent the objective of access and mobility;**
  - e. Timothy Richardson to represent the objective of environmental sustainability; and**
  - f. Maru Tapsell to represent cultural interests.**
- 3 Recommend to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council that it reviews the appointments above once it has adopted the Regional Land Transport Strategy.**
- 4 Recommend to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council that it seek a nomination for the Regional Transport Committee from the New Zealand Transport Agency and indicate to the Agency that it would assist the region if that person was the incumbent member (Harry Wilson).**
- 5 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Chase/Williams  
CARRIED**

#### 4.6 **New Zealand Transport Agency Update**

(Refer Tabled Document 1)

Rod James (State Highway Manager, NZTA) was in attendance for the presentation of the report that provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the implementation of State highway projects in the Bay of Plenty region.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, New Zealand Transport Agency Update.**

**Nees/von Dadelszen  
CARRIED**

#### 4.7 **Regional Advisory Group Meetings**

Garry Maloney presented the report that updated the Committee on the Regional Advisory Group meeting held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Regional Advisory Group Meetings.**

**Nees/Richardson  
CARRIED**

#### 5 **Chairperson's Announcement**

The Chair thanked the members of the Regional Transport Committee including staff and the Regional Advisory Group for their participation over the term and looked forward to hopefully working with everyone in the new triennium.

**The meeting closed at 1.51 pm**