

# Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 24 May 2019 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** S Crosby (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**Deputy Chairman:** J Nees

**Appointees:** Mayor M Campbell - Kawerau District Council, Deputy Mayor D Donaldson - Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council, Councillor B Julian - Alternate, Kawerau District Council, Mayor S Chadwick - Rotorua Lakes Council, Councillor A Iles - Alternate, Whakatāne District Council, Councillor D Thwaites - Western Bay of Plenty District Council, R l'Anson - Acting Director of Regional, New Zealand Transport Agency, Councillor J Palmer - Alternate, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, A Talbot - Alternate, New Zealand Transport Agency, Councillor L Baldock - Tauranga City Council, Mayor John Forbes - Ōpōtiki District Council.

**In Attendance:** Inspector B Crowe - Road Safety Advisor/ BOP District Police, J Galbraith - Freight Advisor, D Kneebone - Port Advisor/Property & Infrastructure Manager, Port of Tauranga

Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Chairman Leeder, Cr David Love, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Science, Bron Healey – Senior Transport Planner, David Phizacklea – Regional Development Manager, A Namana – Committee Advisor.

Other: Janeane Joyce – Channeled Planning and Contracting, John Hutchings – HenleyHutchings, Robert Brodnax – UFTI Project Director (via Video Link), Mark Tamura – Waikato Regional Council

**Apologies:** Mayor A Bonne - Whakatāne District Council, Councillor R Curach - Alternate, Tauranga City Council, Councillor K Young - Alternate, Ōpōtiki District Council, Councillor L Thurston - Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

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## 1 Apologies

## Resolved

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

**Accepts the apologies from Mayor A Bonne - Whakatāne District Council, Councillor R Curach - Alternate, Tauranga City Council, Councillor K Young - Alternate, Ōpōtiki District Council and Councillor L Thurston - Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council tendered at the meeting.**

**Crosby/Nees  
CARRIED**

## 2 Public Forum

### **Carole Gordon – Engaging Elders in Transport Planning**

*PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3250351*

**Tabled item 1** – BOP Longevity Graph – *Reference A3250357*. A supporting document - Final Engagement Report was to be circulated to members following the meeting – *Reference A3250355*.

#### Key Points

- Provided a follow up from a previous presentation to the Public Transport Committee
- The number of people over 75 years of age in the SmartGrowth region would increase 229% by 2036 and be the largest public transport consumer group
- Outlined research survey results of what elders sought from the public transport environment
- Described current issues of public transport provision
- Suggested a 3D printed self-driving shuttle concept
- Recommended that UFTI consider complementary urban, community focused “micro-transit” public transport services to complement key transit routes, increase patronage and address congestion
- Supported further investigation of the public transport requirements of ageing communities in the Bay of Plenty region.

#### Key Points – Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Science

- Subsequent to the previous presentation to the Public Transport Committee on 10 May 2019, the report had been taken to UFTI and the project team with staff committing to propose how to work through the recommendations at the next Public Transport Committee
- As part of Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s Annual Plan 2019-20 deliberations, smaller bus options were being considered as well as the extension of super gold card hours.

The Chairperson acknowledged the years of service provided by Councillor Curach and welcomed Councillor Baldock as the new appointed member from Tauranga City Council.

## 3 Acceptance of Late Items

Nil.

## 4 General Business

Nil.

## 5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil.

## 6 Previous Minutes

### 6.1 Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 15 March 2019

#### Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Confirms the Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 15 March 2019 as a true and correct record.

Crosby/Nees  
CARRIED

### 6.2 Regional Transport Committee minutes - 24 April 2018

#### Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Confirms the Regional Transport Committee minutes - 24 April 2018 as a true and correct record.

Crosby/Nees  
CARRIED

### 6.3 Regional Transport Committee minutes - 02 February 2018

#### Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Confirms the Regional Transport Committee minutes - 02 February 2018 as a true and correct record.

Crosby/ Nees  
CARRIED

## 7 Reports

### 7.1 Update from Committee Members and Advisors

#### Mayor Steve Chadwick – Rotorua Lakes Council

##### Key Points

- Requested clarification on the status of Connect Rotorua and an update on the timing for interim Stage 1 and completion of the Ngongotahā roundabout

- Supported UFTI in principle, but had concerns about its impact on Rotorua activities which were also addressing urban growth issues.

### **John Galbraith – Freight Advisor**

#### Key Points

- Funding had been secured to set up a driver training centre in Kawerau to service the Eastern Bay of Plenty, complementing the existing network of training centres
- Acknowledged support of Freight Logistics Action Group (FLAG) at career expo events held in Rotorua and Edgecumbe.

### **Mayor Malcolm Campbell – Kawerau District Council**

#### Key Points

- The quality of State Highway 34 pavements on the Rotorua side of Kawerau was a concern
- Noted the importance of catering to the needs of elderly people in small communities
- Waiū Dairy Plant would be operational in another six weeks.

### **Inspector Brent Crowe – Road Safety Advisor/ Bay of Plenty District Police**

#### Key Points

- 40 people had died on Bay of Plenty roads in 2019 to date
- Approximately 50% of vehicle crashes involved impairment including fatigue, distraction or alcohol consumption
- In the majority of instances Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) were not at fault
- A national initiative would see an additional 30 policing staff from around the country arriving in the Bay of Plenty for the month of June 2019
- People could expect to observe a higher police presence on roads during this time and resources would be focussed on high-risk areas highlighted by emerging trends.

#### Key Points – Members

- Mayor Chadwick acknowledged the police and emergency services staff for their hard work over a difficult period on Bay of Plenty roads.

### **Cr Stuart Crosby (Chairperson) – Bay of Plenty Regional Council**

#### Key Points

- Phase 3 of the review of the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint network was well underway
- Dedicated school bus service was on track with Phase 1 showing success with students identifying with the same bus and driver
- Progress on the return of some Tauranga and Pāpāmoa routes had been delayed due to bus driver shortage
- Route 41 would now be reinstated on 24 June 2019 and 8 July 2019 for Pāpāmoa, a direct route would be taken in the morning and afternoon, but servicing every stop during the day
- The UFTI budget would be announced 30 May 2019.

### **Dan Kneebone – Port of Tauranga**

#### Key Points

- First interim report of the upper North Island supply chain study had been released
- The Port supported the current competitive model
- Congestion on Totara Street and at Hewletts Road/ Totara Street intersection remained a major issue
- Continued to encourage growth in volumes on rail and via coastal shipping
- The large scale de-barker opened at Murupara meant logs would be transported without bark, reducing debris on rail and roads.

### **Cr Andrew Iles – Whakatāne District Council**

#### Key Points

- Costing was being sought for a permanent compostable toilet for the swimming hole site at Waimana gorge where the next Tūhoe Ahurei would be held in 2020
- State Highway 2 Taneātua pedestrian and speed management concept options were close to being released
- LED lighting installations across the district were on track for completion by the end of June 2019.

### **Cr Larry Baldock – Tauranga City Council**

#### Key Points

- Cycle Action Plan report was due to go to the Urban Form and Transport Committee in July 2019
- A well-funded communication budget was essential for effective community engagement
- Plans were being finalised for Arataki/ Bayfair interchange and the central city terminal
- Updated members on Tauranga Transport Strategic Model and Tauranga Transport Hybrid Model, due to be completed by the end of June 2019.

### **Cr Don Thwaites – Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

#### Key Points

- 90% of urban growth in the Western Bay of Plenty occurred north of Wairoa bridge
- Funding models from Ministry of Transport were required to address the issues of public transport and accessibility for population growth.

### **Cr John Palmer – Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

#### Key Points

- A key component of completing the Ōmokoroa to Tauranga cycleway was crossing the Wairoa bridge
- Ōmokoroa Road project was now on hold awaiting funding from NZTA.

### **Mayor John Forbes – Ōpōtiki District Council**

#### Key Points

- New road development to service the harbour entrance needed to be addressed in the first part of 2020
- Street lighting on Ōpōtiki Bridge had been scheduled for repairs for seven months and was an issue for community safety.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

- 1 Receives the report, Update from Committee Members and Advisors.**

**Campbell/Crosby  
CARRIED**

## 7.2 New Zealand Transport Agency Update

*PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3241181*

Ross l'Anson – Acting Director Regional Relationships and Alistair Talbot – Lead Strategic Planner presented this item.

### Key Points

- Working together with Creative Tauranga on the visual aesthetics of the Baypark to Bayfair Link
- Noted Mayor Chadwick's concerns about Connect Rotorua process and would continue engagement with Rotorua Lakes Council on this
- Trying to progress work on Ngongotahā roundabout and Ngongotahā to State Highway 5
- Ōpōtiki bridge lighting issues were to be resolved
- All National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) activity classes were oversubscribed due to an overwhelming response to the GPS and Target Enhanced Financial Assistance Rate (TEFAR)
- TEFAR scope was reduced and would now only cover low cost/ low risk safety projects
- Communication was being released to each Council advising which projects had been approved and which projects were likely or unlikely to be funded in the next two years
- Highlighted areas of focus for the NLTP 2021-24
- Provided a speed management update included in a suite of safety interventions to be delivered as part of the Safe Network Programme
- Standard Safety Intervention Toolkit had been released as part of the Safe Network Programme
- Mega Maps speed management tool was to become more readily available with access requests assessed on an individual basis.

### Presenters in Response to Questions

- There were more projects than available funding
- NZTA would work closely with Councils on TEFAR projects and prioritisation.

### Key Points – Members

- It was challenging to identify which cycle projects would be aligned to the new requirements
- There did not appear to be any immediate benefits from the changes at Barks Corner.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

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

Iles/Chadwick  
CARRIED

**7.3 Urban Form and Transport Initiative Update**

Robert Brodnax – Project Director for Urban Form and Transport Initiative (UFTI) provided a verbal update via Video Link, supported by David Phizacklea – Regional Development Manager.

Key Points

- Three people had been appointed to the UFTI Project Team – Robert Brodnax (Project Director), Ben Peacey (Technical Coordinator) and Janeane Joyce (Project Manager)
- Summarised the objectives and intentions the final UFTI report would provide to the Bay of Plenty region and how people and goods would be moving around now and within the next 50 years
- Current focus was on aligning evidence and information from Councils to complete the foundation report
- A co-design approach was being developed with stakeholders, where collaboration was important with both organisations and stakeholders across the wider Bay of Plenty region to ensure their engagement in the process
- Work was underway on an effective communications platform for the wider community
- More work was required around the potential of mode shift to make a difference in terms of how the transport system functioned now and in the long term
- Quick fixes and longer term solutions were being planned for pressure areas such as Hewletts Road and Totara Street
- Higher profile engagement material could be expected in the next four to six weeks.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- As part of the project, the impact of tourists flows would be considered
- Regional freight flows was a critical piece of work which included the entire Bay of Plenty region.

**Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

**1 Receives the report, Urban Form and Transport Initiative Update.**

Crosby/ Iles  
CARRIED

**7.4 Regional Land Transport Plan Variation - Urban Form and Transport Initiative Programme Business Case**

Bron Healey – Senior Transport Planner presented this item.

## Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 **Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan Variation - Urban Form and Transport Initiative Programme Business Case;**
- 2 **Adds the Urban Form and Transport initiative Programme Business Case to the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan 2018; and**
- 3 **Determines that the proposed variation is not significant for the purposes of public consultation.**

Thwaites/Nees  
CARRIED

### 7.5 Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Partnership

*PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3245165 and **Tabled Item 2** – Hei Awarua ki te Oranga – Reference A3245168*

David Phizacklea – Regional Development Manager introduced Mark Tamura – Waikato Regional Council who attended the meeting to present this item.

#### Key Points of Presentation

- Briefly covered the background and the context of the Corridor Plan
- Hamilton to Auckland Corridor was one of the most significant water, road and rail corridors in the country
- Waikato Awa had constraints including being oversubscribed, yet not over-allocated
- Major challenges were congestion, water availability and quality
- There was a strong collaborative leadership culture through Future Proof Partnership, similar to SmartGrowth
- Provided an overview of the process:
  - Collaborative but targeted
  - Accelerated
  - Evidence informed
- Detailed each of the six layers within the Statement of Shared Spatial Intent
- Objectives were effectively balanced between environmental wellbeing, community wellbeing, growth and development
- A corridor plan steering group had been created in addition to the existing structure
- Described the five parts to the Growth Management Partnership.

#### Presenters in Response to Questions

- Freight growth needed to be considered with passenger capabilities and what a rapid service could look like
- Low carbon planning was a key aspect of the project.

#### Key Points – Members

- Agreed that regional spatial planning was the way of the future.



## Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Partnership.

Forbes/Thwaites  
CARRIED

12.05 pm - The meeting adjourned.

12.25 pm - The meeting reconvened.

## 7.6 Appointment of Environmental Sustainability Advisor

Bron Healey – Senior Transport Planner presented this item.

## Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Appointment of Environmental Sustainability Advisor;
- 2 Notes that a public process will seek nominations for candidates to fill the Environmental Sustainability Advisor role; and
- 3 Appoints the Regional Transport Committee Chair and the Regional Council's General Manager – Strategy and Science as a selection panel and delegates authority to the Chair to appoint an Environmental Sustainability advisor.

Nees/Baldock  
CARRIED

## 7.7 Transport Planning Update

John Hutchings – HenleyHutchings attended the meeting and provided an overview of national initiatives.

### Key Points

- The cost of living in large New Zealand cities was increasing compared to Australia
- Policy changes had funding implications and funding opportunities needed to be watched closely
- Identified the different initiatives and implications for the transport sector
- Highlighted the connecting themes and links back to the agenda for regional transport.

12.43 pm - Mayor Forbes withdrew from the meeting.

## Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

**1 Receives the report, Transport Planning Update.**

Crosby/Iles  
CARRIED

**7.8 Bay of Plenty Passenger and Freight Rail Investigation - Draft Report**

*PowerPoint Presentation – Reference A3247392*

Janeane Joyce – Channeled Planning and Contracting attended the meeting for this item and provided an outline of the report.

Key Points of Presentation

- Outlined the two phases of the investigation and covered the work undertaken to date in Phase 1
- Recognised the input and assistance of key stakeholders
- Three Government reviews linked to rail were in progress
- Detailed future opportunities involving:
  - Partnering with Central Government
  - Developing a Rapid Transit Transition Plan for Western Bay of Plenty
  - Encouraging protection and optimisation of the Bay of Plenty rail network
  - Including all rail activities within the National Land Transport Fund / Programme
  - Defining customer values within multi-modal choices

1.00pm - Cr Thwaites **withdrew** from the meeting.

- Access to rail was important to many industries including horticulture
- It was important to discover what people valued when making decisions about transport choices.

Presenters in Response to Questions

- Rapid Transit included all modes of transport
- Clarified that the conversation around Phase 2 would be built into UFTI and other regional work.

Key Points – Members

- Noted key points in terms of freight rail and potential for passenger rail need to be read together.
- Kaimai tunnel considerations needed to be included in Regional Rail Constraints
- There was a direct Rotorua to Auckland line which could be an opportunity to have reinstated.

1.23 pm - Mayor Chadwick **withdrew** from the meeting.

**Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Passenger and Freight Rail Investigation – Draft Report;**
- 2 **Support the exploration of rapid transit through UFTI and other relevant strategies;**
- 3 **Endorses the Bay of Plenty Passenger and Freight Rail Phase 1 Investigation report, subject to any amendments arising from discussion of the item.**

**Crosby/Campbell  
CARRIED**

## 7.9 **Review of Regional Land Transport Plan Measures and Targets**

Bron Healey – Senior Transport Planner presented this item.

1.26 pm - Dan Kneebone **withdrew** from the meeting.

### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Review of Regional Land Transport Plan Measures and Targets;**
- 2 **Notes that there are several legislative and national policy development processes underway with significant implications for measures and targets in Regional Land Transport Plans;**
- 3 **Notes that staff and the Regional Advisory Group will continue to develop high level options for measures and targets for future consideration by the Committee.**

**Nees/Iles  
CARRIED**

## 7.10 **Bay of Plenty Regional Road Safety Report**

Inspector Crowe – NZ Police responded to questions regarding this item.

### In Response to Questions

- New short term resources would likely be domiciled in Rotorua and deployed using an evidence based model
- Of the four multiple fatality Bay of Plenty crashes in the year to date, only one had involved a people mover
- The infringement fee for using cell phones whilst driving was \$80 and involved no demerit points for the driver. Attaching demerits could be a catalyst for change.

### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee:**

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Regional Road Safety Report.**

**Nees/Campbell  
CARRIED**

**The meeting closed at 1.47 p.m.**

Confirmed DATE

Chairperson – Regional Transport Committee

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Councillor Stuart Crosby