



Report **06.598**
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Committee **Regional Land Transport**
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RLTS Consultation Plan

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval of a consultation plan for the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS).

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Section 179 of the LTA 1998 sets out the consultation requirements for the preparation of regional land transport strategies. Section 179(1) of the Act identifies a list of parties who must be consulted in relation to a regional land transport strategy. Section 179(2) requires regional councils to use the special consultative procedure under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 when consulting on their regional land transport strategy.

The first phase of consultation on the RLTS review was the *Strategic Options consultation document* released in August 2005. The document sought feedback on the draft vision, objectives and outcomes of the strategy, together with three strategic scenarios for achieving the strategy's outcomes. Feedback from this process has been given consideration in the further development of the strategy. This first phase consultation process also allowed the identification of a number of additional interested or affected parties and these parties have been added to the RLTS mail out lists.

Consultation on the full draft RLTS is expected to have a higher profile than the first consultation phase, because the strategy includes implementation plans, corridor plans and the regional transport programme. These were not in the previous Strategic Options document.

The Committee previously considered a draft consultation plan for the full draft strategy at a workshop on 12 May and at a meeting on the 8 June 2006. Report number 06.597, also on this agenda, recommends the release of the draft RLTS for consultation. The earlier draft of the consultation plan has been finalised and sets out the process to be followed for the RLTS consultation.

The plan also provides for concurrent consultation on the Regional Passenger Transport Plan (PT Plan). The PT Plan is not subject to the LGA special consultative procedures. However, the two documents are complementary and the parties interested in the RLTS and PT Plan will be similar. It is therefore appropriate that both are provided for in the consultation plan.

4. Comment

4.1 Consultation plan objectives

The RLTS consultation plan is in **attachment 1**. The consultation plan has the following objectives:

- To engage stakeholders and the community in the development of the RLTS and PT Plan
- To facilitate awareness and understanding of the RLTS and the PT Plan so interested parties have the opportunity to make submissions
- To ensure the communications programme meets the requirements of section 179 of the LTA, including the special consultative procedures of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002.

The consultation plan has been developed to meet the above requirements and to ensure the most efficient and cost effective consultation programme appropriate for this type of document.

4.2 Key elements of the consultation plan

Key elements of the consultation plan include:

- Mail out of the draft strategy and the summary document 'Making connections' to a list of statutory stakeholders (approximately 55) and other interested parties (approximately 300)
- Summary document distributed to every household in the region
- Copies of the draft strategy and summary document sent to all territorial authorities and public libraries
- Media releases
- Public Notices in the Dominion Post and the Wairarapa Times Age
- Article in December issue of *Elements*
- Market research survey
- A dedicated webpage
- Public displays and posters
- A series of public meetings.

In addition to the statutory parties identified by section 179(1) of the LTA 1998, section 89(c) of the LGA 2002 requires a summary of the information contained in the RLTS 'to be distributed as widely as reasonably practicable (in such manner as is determined appropriate by the local authority, having regard to the matter to which the proposal relates) as a basis for general consultation'.

A summary of the information contained in the draft RLTS has been prepared as a colour, A2 size brochure 'Making connections'. The purpose of this summary document, in addition to meeting the requirements of sections 83 and 89 of the LGA, is to provide an interesting, non technical summary of the key elements of the strategy which may appeal to a wider audience than the full draft strategy.

In addition to being mailed to the list of stakeholders and interested parties (together with the draft strategy), a copy of 'Making connections' will be distributed to all households. It will be made available on the Greater Wellington web page, at all public libraries and district councils in the region, at public display locations, and on request.

The wide distribution of the summary document to communicate the strategy will be complemented by other communication methods such as public notices and media releases.

Radio advertising has been considered and has not been included in the final consultation plan. This type of media is unlikely to provide a cost effective method of significantly increasing the level of engagement and feedback for this type of document.

The feedback received through submissions will be supplemented by the results of a market research survey of around 800 residents and 100 businesses. The survey will aim to test the views and attitudes of the community in relation key regional transport issues covered by the strategy. The market research will help inform the Committee on the views of the wider community who might not otherwise be heard through the submission process.

A series of public meetings are to be held in each district around the region to provide an opportunity for people to ask questions about the strategy. It is proposed that these meetings be chaired by the chair (or deputy chair) of the Regional Land Transport Committee with support from the territorial authority representative on the Committee wherever possible. Other Committee members may wish to attend any of the meetings.

4.3 Consultation period

The LGA 2002 requires a minimum of one month for submissions from the first public notice. It was initially proposed that the consultation period run from 11 November to 22 December 2006, thereby providing a 5/6 week consultation period.

However, for the following reasons it is now considered appropriate to have the consultation period run from mid November to mid February 2007:

- The period leading up to Christmas is a particularly busy time of year and given size of the RLTS and PT Plan documents, extending the consultation period through to mid February will ensure people and organisations have adequate time to make a submission.
- The proposed timing will allow the RLTS summary document to be widely distributed to every household early in the consultation period, with adequate time following its distribution for individuals and organisations to attend public meetings and prepare submissions.
- The release of the strategy in mid November will minimise any overlap with Wellington Regional Strategy submission processes, which has been extended to close on the 13th November.

Under the proposed timetable, the strategy will be completed in May 2007.

5. Communication

Communications described in the attached consultation plan will commence following release of the draft strategy and summary document for consultation.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Adopts the consultation plan for the draft RLTS, as set out in **attachment 1** to this report.*

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Attachment 1: RLTS consultation plan