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Committee Regional Transport  
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## Agency Progress Report on Implementing the Regional Land Transport Strategy

### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress in implementing the projects, activities and action programmes of the Regional Transport Programme in the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS 2007 – 2016).

### 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

The Committee is required by the Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008 to provide a 3 yearly report on implementing the RLTS. Subject to agreement by the Committee, the intention is to maintain the annual monitoring process to ensure up-to-date information is available for related policy development work. The Annual Monitoring Report documents implementation progress as well as some 100 indicators to gauge progress towards achieving the objectives of the strategy. This **quarterly report** focuses on agency progress towards implementing the projects, activities and action programmes set out in the RLTS 2007 – 2016, as reported by the lead agencies. Progress is reported for the quarter to **30 September 2008**.

A comprehensive reporting methodology has been developed to update the Committee on the overall progress of all regional projects, activities and implementation plan action programmes (**Attachment 1**). Detailed progress including commencement and completion dates is given. Descriptions of all Passenger Transport Programme projects and activities, Strategic Roading Programme projects and implementation plan action programmes (Travel Demand Management, Cycling, Pedestrian and Road Safety) are included in the associated attachments.

This report relies on information provided by a number of agencies and can only be as good as the updated feedback received from those agencies. The Transport Policy & Strategy Division would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the numerous agencies that are required to regularly provide updated material for this report.

An update on the quarterly progress of the Transmission Gully Motorway Project from the New Zealand Transport Agency is included within this Agency Progress Report. Previously, this has been addressed in a stand-alone report.

## **4. Progress**

The following provides a brief summary of the highlights during the first quarter of the 2008/09 financial year.

### **4.1 Ngauranga to Airport Strategic Transport Study**

Consultation on the draft corridor plan ran from June to 23 July 2008. 644 submissions were received. Hearings of oral submissions and consideration of all submissions was undertaken by a subcommittee of the Committee in August and September. The final corridor plan is recommended to the Committee in a separate report on this agenda.

### **4.2 Regional Rail Plan**

An update of the work to date on the Regional Rail Plan was presented to Greater Wellington Transport and Access Committee at a workshop in early September. Work continues on preparing the first draft Regional Rail Plan for the Transport and Access Committee's endorsement to proceed with wider consultation. The Plan will be presented to the RTC in December.

### **4.3 Passenger Transport Projects**

Greater Wellington is the lead agency for all passenger transport projects. See **Attachment 2** for detailed progress. Highlights this quarter are:

#### **4.3.1 Matangi rolling stock – new Electric Multiple Units (EMU) procurement**

Delivery is expected to commence in early 2010. The project is currently in the design phase where Rotem/Mitsui is submitting various project plans and system designs for review.

A rough wooden mock-up of the train driver's cab arrived in Wellington in the middle of September for review and comment by KiwiRail staff and the Rail & Maritime Transport Union.

#### **4.3.2 Additional capacity trains**

The SE train (six SE carriages and two EO locomotives) will be ready for passenger service towards the end of December 2008.

The two-car Ferrymead train commenced passenger services on 30 September 2008, while the two-car Phoenix train will be ready for passenger services in October 2008.

#### 4.3.3 MacKay's to Waikanae double tracking (and electrification to Waikanae)

Most designs are complete and Requests for Tender (RFT) are being released for preliminary civil works. Staging and track possession regimes are being established and optimised for minimum service disruption within practicable work packages.

#### 4.3.4 Johnsonville tunnels upgrades

Physical work started in the tunnels at the beginning of September 2008, with overall good progress.

#### 4.3.5 Real time information

The Expression of Interest request for the Real Time Information system was issued on 15 September. The closing date was 13 October. The purpose of the Expression of Interest is to give advance notice of the impending tender and to gauge market interest. Consultation has taken place with NZTA to finalise the procurement process, so that funding approval can be sought in November 2008. A probity auditor from Audit New Zealand has been appointed.

#### 4.3.6 Integrated ticketing

Integrated ticketing remains an aspiration. Greater Wellington will continue to investigate the introduction of electronic ticketing on rail, maximising potential assimilation of existing electronic ticketing schemes in the region and the capability to extend the scheme to bus at a later stage. Currently, there is no national-level guidance; however a consistent approach may be influenced by the outcome of the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) procurement process for its integrated fares and ticketing scheme.

This project's development therefore continues to take place in a changing environment. However, a small number of existing integrated ticketing schemes in the region, including a recent bus/rail trial, demonstrate that there is a requirement for an integrated electronic ticketing approach. In addition, the underlying objective of a sound system of fares integration will continue to be investigated through working with stakeholders.

#### 4.3.7 Bus stop and shelter maintenance

New bus shelters have been installed at nine locations throughout the region. In addition, one shelter for Lower Hutt and three shelters for Wellington are in storage and will be installed once consents are approved.

### 4.4 Passenger Transport Activities

Greater Wellington is also the lead agency for all passenger transport activities (these are listed in **Attachment 3**). Relevant points to note for the quarter:

#### 4.4.1 Trolley bus services

##### **Trolley bus replacement programme**

As at the end of September 2008 there are 17 new generation trolley buses on the road.

There continues to be a delay in the delivery of the new trolley buses due to production issues and relocation of factory facilities. NZ Bus Ltd is continuing to work with Designline to ensure that delivery of the new fleet will still be completed by the originally planned date of November 2009.

##### **Overhead trolley bus wires**

A report on the condition of the overhead trolley bus wires and Wellington Cable Car Ltd's related 10 year Asset Management Plan was received in July. The report supported the level of maintenance and renewals described in the asset management plan as appropriate to maintain the reliability and safety of the network.

#### 4.4.2 Review of Kapiti bus/train connections

An integrated ticketing scheme involving free transfer between bus and train in Paraparaumu has been developed. The trial scheme is scheduled to last four months and began 1 September 2008. This scheme is aimed primarily at relieving pressure on the park and ride facility at Paraparaumu.

#### 4.4.3 Rail Station Upgrades

The aim of the first package of works is to change the geometry or rail alignment of 15 of the 53 rail platforms to ensure they are compatible with the new Matangi rolling stock. This means that platforms will be remodelled, or the track will be repositioned, to allow all types of rolling stock to pass safely without striking platforms and allow passengers to board and alight.

#### 4.5 **ONTRACK update**

No detailed report was received from ONTRACK this quarter.

ONTRACK is the lead agency for the following passenger transport projects. See **Attachment 2** for detailed progress. The highlight for this quarter is:

##### 4.5.1 Kaiwharawhara Throat (Wellington Station Entry)

The detailed design continues to programme. Some preliminary physical works are planned for the upcoming Christmas period.

#### 4.6 **Roading Projects**

**New Zealand Transport Agency** (formerly Transit New Zealand) is the lead agency for most of the strategic roading projects identified in the RLTS. See

**Attachment 4** for detailed progress. Progress to note on roading projects led by the NZ Transport Agency includes:

#### 4.6.1 Dowse to Petone Grade Separation (Hutt Corridor)

Construction work is progressing to programme.

#### 4.6.2 Moonshine Hill Road Intersections (Hutt Corridor)

Upgrade of Whakatiki Street/Moonshine Road and Moonshine Hill Road (east) is substantially complete.

The remainder of the intersection at Moonshine Hill Road (west) was suspended due to poor weather but is scheduled to resume in October/November 2008. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

#### 4.6.3 Safety Investigations (Western Corridor)

##### **MacKay's to Centennial Highway safety improvements**

This investigation is 60% complete.

Investigation of the first section (Mackay's to Paekakariki) is complete except for consultation. Investigation for the Paekakariki to Centennial Highway section is just underway (10% complete) with expected completion in December 2008.

##### **Otaihanga to Waikanae safety improvements**

The investigation has just begun (10% complete) and is expected to be completed in December 2008.

##### **Moonshine Hill Road to Silverstream safety improvements**

This investigation is complete. Safety improvements are likely to be broken into two stages for construction.

#### 4.6.4 Transmission Gully Motorway (Western Corridor)

The consultation period on the preferred Transmission Gully route formally ended on 20 August with more than 2000 submissions received. The consultation process had been supported by briefings of community groups as well as the manning of information stands at shopping malls in the Greater Wellington area. Work on analysing the submissions has begun. The draft Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) has also been completed and is available on the website of the NZTA. Meanwhile preliminary planning work has started on Phase 2 of the project (preparing for consent applications).

#### 4.6.5 Western Link Road (Western Corridor)

**Kapiti Coast District Council** is the lead agency on the Western Link Road project (Western Corridor).

Western Link Road Stages 1 – 3 are progressing with the Stage 1 investigation almost complete. A review of design scope has been completed, final scoping decisions have been agreed and detailed design work is underway. Further work is being completed to look at the footprint of the intersections and whether there is any opportunity to reduce the number of lanes required.

Designations have been obtained and work on Stage 1 resource consents is continuing with three of four consents approved. Property purchase is proceeding as the NZ Transport Agency has approved a funding application for advanced land purchase.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted between Takemore Trust and Council and is likely to be signed in October 2008 (see **Attachment 4**).

#### 4.7 Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of TDM Plan Activities which are detailed in **Attachment 5**. The status of some TDM actions is given below:

##### 4.7.1 Community initiatives

Greater Wellington is supporting a Victoria University Masters student research project investigating the best approach to Individualised Transport Marketing. The project will target 500 households in Island Bay, Wellington South.

An individualised community travel behaviour change project involving a partnership between Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington, Sustainability Trust, and the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund was completed. "Getting Around Wellington" involved the engagement of 725 Wellington City households in voluntarily reducing regular weekly household car trips.

##### 4.7.2 Other initiatives

This quarter a decision to purchase carpool matching software and to begin an investigation into programme support options for regional implementation was made. This project aims to facilitate commuter carpooling through regional businesses and high employment centres with limited access to public transport.

##### 4.7.3 Greater Wellington's Travel Plan Programme

###### **School Travel Plans**

The school travel plan programme achieved the three year target of 16 participating schools by 2008/09. Six Territorial Authorities throughout the region are now participating, involving over 6,500 primary and secondary students.

Some of the initiatives that schools have undertaken as part of their travel plans include:

- Walking and cycling clubs
- Walk once a week challenge with a golden boot prize for the class with the highest percentage of walkers
- Students graphing weekly results of Wednesday walkers
- Active transport days
- Rewards for secondary students getting to school sustainably
- Over 60 schools participating in Feet First Walk to School event
- Working with police to measure speed around schools
- Walking buddies – senior kids leading walking school buses
- Push Play days
- Trees trimmed for easier use of walkways.

Greater Wellington officers are working with the NZ Transport Agency to extend the Feet First programme to *FEET FIRST EVERY WEEK* in 2009 and beyond.

### **Workplace Travel Plans**

A total of 12 organisations are taking part in the Workplace Travel Plan Programme resulting in the three year target (to 2008/09) already being met. Almost 12,000 staff and 20,000 tertiary students are involved in the travel plans.

The evaluation of the ‘Have a go on the bus or train promotion’ was completed in this quarter. During the promotion approximately one week’s free travel on a bus or train was given to 916 commuters from 18 workplaces. The results show:

- 916 people were eligible for a free bus or train pass in this trial. In the follow-up survey one month after the trial, 390 people (43% of participants) reported that they had used PT in the past 7 days. Two-thirds of the 390 users had used PT on 3 or more days – 133 had used PT on 5 or more.
- 253 people (of 381 weekday users – 66%) responded that they drove less to work as a result of using PT.
- 407 people said they would be using PT in the next four weeks. 224 or 44% of respondents said this would be for 3-5 times a week.

## **4.8 Cycling Plan Activities**

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of Cycling Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 6**. Activity progress to note is:

#### 4.8.1 Regional Cycling Plan review

A Draft Regional Cycling Plan has been approved for consultation by the Committee in August 2008. The consultation period ended 19 September 2008 with 35 submissions being received.

A separate report on this agenda recommends the establishment of a hearing subcommittee to consider the submissions.

#### 4.8.2 Cyclist Skills Training

An appropriate delivery model for cyclist skills training in the region is being investigated with the NZ Transport Agency. A programme pilot with schools involved with the Travel Plan Programme is anticipated.

#### 4.8.3 Other Initiatives

A project commenced towards the development and implementation of a web-based cycling and walking journey planner aimed to provide information to facilitate and encourage cycling and walking for commutes and short trips. A request for proposals closes at the end of September 2008. The intended completion date of this project is March 2009.

### 4.9 Pedestrian Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of Pedestrian Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 7**. Activity progress during the quarter includes:

#### 4.9.1 Regional Walking (Pedestrian) Plan review

This plan identifies actions to implement the RLTS 2007 – 2016 and will influence investment decisions and transport planning in relation to walking over the next 10 years.

The Committee considered submissions to the draft Regional Walking Plan at the August 2008 meeting and requested the matter be reported back to the Committee at the next meeting. The report is provided in a separate report on this agenda.

### 4.10 Road Safety Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of Road Safety Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 8**.

Starting 29 September 2008 Greater Wellington is hosting the “Art of Road Safety” exhibition. It features photographs taken by Senior Sergeant John Robinson, a former Canterbury district highway patrol officer, of roadside crosses and floral displaces. The exhibit will run until 10 October, after which it will be showcased with the Hutt City Council.



## 5. **Communication**

Communications regarding the projects mentioned in this report are the responsibility of the implementing agency.

## 6. **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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**Attachment 1: Agency Progress Reporting Methodology**

**Attachment 2: Passenger Transport Projects**

**Attachment 3: Passenger Transport Activities**

**Attachment 4: Roading Projects**

**Attachment 5: TDM Strategy Activities**

**Attachment 6: Cycling Plan Activities**

**Attachment 7: Pedestrian Plan Activities**

**Attachment 8: Road Safety Plan Activities**