



Report 08.930
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Committee Regional Transport Committee
Author Joe Hewitt Manager, Transport Strategy
Development

Significance Policies Regional Land Transport Programme and Regional Land Transport Strategy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to propose significance policies for variations to regional land transport strategies and regional land transport programmes as required by section 106 (2) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

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

As reported at the last meeting (28 October, report 08.756), the amended Land Transport Management Act 2003¹ (the Act) requires the Committee to have significance policies for variations to the strategy and the programme. If a variation is judged to be significant, then full consultation with the parties identified in the Act (effectively everyone) is then required before the Committee can make a final decision on the proposed change. Draft policies were reported to the last meeting. Some questions were raised, in particular by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) representative. In response the Committee asked officers to work with the Agency to address its concerns and report back to the December meeting.

¹ As amended by the Land Transport Management Act 2008.

4. Comment

4.1 Regional Land Transport Strategy significance policy (refer Attachment 1)

A question was raised at the last meeting regarding the appropriateness of the statement in the Regional Land Transport Strategy policy “*consideration should also be given to balancing the need for public input/consultation on the variation against the likely cost of a consultative process*”. Officers have reviewed this statement and it is recommended that this provision be removed as it is not a test of whether a matter is significant. However, it is recommended that the following statement in the ‘application’ section of the policy be adopted:

“The approach to the consultation will reflect the level of the significance of the proposed variation. Consideration should be given to the costs and benefits of any consultation process or procedure and the extent to which consultation has already taken place.”

4.2 Regional Land Transport Programme significance policy (refer Attachment 2)

The New Zealand Transport Agency was not comfortable with the wording of the following test of significance for Programme variations:

“a scope change costing less than 10% of the approved allocation but not more than \$4.5 million, irrespective of the source of funding”

and has recommended the following alternative wording:

“a functional scope change costing less than 10% of the estimated cost for an agreed package or strategy²; or less than \$20 million, irrespective of the source of funding”.

The main purpose of the programme is to show what investments are planned over the next 10 years and the focus should generally be on the programme as a whole rather than the individual projects within it. It is therefore considered that the alternative test better reflects material significance in the context of Wellington Region’s programme which is likely to identify expenditure of between \$4 and \$5 billion over ten years.

NZTA advises that all other tests in the draft strategy and programme significance policies appear to be workable.

5. Communication

The Act requires that, in future, the programme and strategy include summaries of the relevant significance policies. Given the succinct nature of the policies it

² A package or strategy in this context is defined as a combination of projects or activities that are either produce complementary outcomes or are a logical grouping of similar projects.

is intended that the full policies be included in the full versions of the documents when they are next produced.

6. Voting

Section 107 (1) of the Act states that objective and interest representatives have full speaking rights, but are not entitled to vote on matters related to regional land transport programmes. As the subject matter of recommendation 4 relates to the regional land transport programme, Objective and Cultural Interest representatives **may not** vote on that resolution.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Adopts** the significance policy on variations to the Regional Land Transport Strategy as set out in Attachment 1.
4. **Adopts** the significance policy on variations to the Regional Land Transport Programme as set out in Attachment 2.

(Objective and Cultural Interest representatives may not vote on recommendation 4)

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Joe Hewitt
Manager, Transport Strategy Development

Jane Davis
Divisional Manager Transport Policy and Strategy

Attachment 1: Policy on the significance of on variations to the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

Attachment 2: Policy on the significance of variations to the Regional Land Transport Programme.