



Report 10.70
Date 17 February 2010
File TP/03/17/05

Committee Regional Transport
Author Natasha Hayes Senior Transport Planner

Establishment of a Hearing Subcommittee for the Draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan

1. Purpose

To establish a subcommittee of the Regional Transport Committee to hear, consider and report on submissions to the draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan.

2. The decision making process and significance

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the guidance provided by the Council's significance policy. The decision that is subject of this report is considered to have low significance.

3. Background

3.1 Draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan

The Wairarapa Corridor Plan is a non-statutory plan that sets out key projects and activities, and their likely timing, to implement the Regional Land Transport Strategy. The corridor plan is currently being reviewed and updated. A draft plan was agreed for consultation at the 2 December 2009 Committee meeting.

Public notices calling for submissions appeared on 6 March 2010. The submission period covers five weeks from 6 February to 12 March 2010. All people making submissions will be offered the opportunity to be heard in support of their submission.

4. Comment

4.1 Need to Establish a Hearings Subcommittee

Hearings subcommittees are an efficient option for hearing a number of submitters and considering submissions in some detail. A subcommittee will

allow hearing dates, times and locations to be better tailored to suit submitters rather than trying to accommodate hearings within upcoming Committee agendas. Therefore a hearings subcommittee is considered appropriate.

4.2 Terms of Reference

The recommended Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee are in **Attachment 1**.

4.2.1 Scope of the Subcommittee's Role

It is recommended that the subcommittee be established to hear, evaluate and report on submissions, and make recommendations to the Committee.

The subcommittee will have the opportunity to ask questions of those submitters who present their submissions orally and have matters clarified where necessary. The subcommittee will also spend some time discussing the submissions and deliberating on the matters raised. This will give it the ability to consider the submissions in some depth.

It is expected that the subcommittee's recommendations will then be considered by the full Committee at the 16 June 2010 meeting.

4.2.2 Subcommittee Membership

All members of the Committee are eligible for appointment to a hearings subcommittee.

It is consistent with best practice and the requirements of the Local Government Act that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions. The only constraint, therefore, is the availability on the day of hearings and deliberations.

It is recommended that five committee members be appointed to the subcommittee. Those members of the Committee not appointed to the subcommittee are welcome to attend the hearings.

As well as subcommittee members, a chair will need to be appointed.

As the Wairarapa Corridor Plan has a focus on Wairarapa, it is recommended that all three local authority representatives from Wairarapa be appointed to the Hearings Subcommittee. It is also recommended that the NZ Transport Agency be represented as the funding authority and state highway manager. It is the usual practice of the RTC to also include on subcommittees the Committee Chair.

It is therefore recommended that the following members be appointed:

- Councillor Wilde (Greater Wellington)
- Mayor Staples (South Wairarapa District Council)

- Mayor McPhee (Carterton District Council)
- Mayor Daniell (Masterton District Council)
- Dr Deborah Hume (NZ Transport Agency)

It is also recommended that Councillor Wilde be appointed as the chair.

4.2.3 Quorum and Standing Orders

The Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders will apply to the subcommittee. This is provided for in the attached Terms of Reference. Consistent with the provisions for the Committee, the Chair of the Hearings Subcommittee will have a deliberative vote, but not a casting vote.

When deciding on a quorum it is important to consider the risks that illness or other unanticipated commitments may prevent a committee member from attending part of the hearings.

To minimise inconvenience to submitters as a result of needing to reschedule the hearings, a quorum of three members is recommended.

5. Communication

There is nothing to communicate as a result of consideration of this report.

6. Voting

Section 107(1) of the amended Land Transport Management 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 this report does not relate to the regional land transport programme, objective and interest representatives **may** vote on the resolutions.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Resolves to establish a subcommittee to hear, evaluate and report on submissions to the Draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan and make recommendations to the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.***

4. ***Resolves*** to appoint the following five Committee members (including a chair) to the Draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee:

- *Councillor Fran Wilde (chair)*
- *Mayor Adrienne Staples*
- *Mayor Gary McPhee*
- *Mayor Garry Daniell*
- *Dr Deborah Hume*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Natasha Hayes
Senior Transport Planner

Joe Hewitt
Manager Transport Strategy
Development

Jane Davis
General Manager Strategy
and Community Engagement

Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for the Draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee