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Committee Regional Transport Committee
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Regional Workplace and Business Travel Programme report

1. Purpose

To report on the Regional Workplace and Business Travel Programme.

2. Background

The Regional Workplace and Business Travel Programme comprises a number of key initiatives, some of which are reported separately to the Committee, including the Active a2b report and the Kiwi Carpool report. The activities of the Programme are directed by the Regional Travel Demand Management Plan, one of the implementation plans under the Regional Land Transport Strategy. As the Workplace and Business Travel Programme is an entire work programme which encompasses a number of elements, it was decided to report on this programme as a whole.

Being able to provide a suite of regional programmes reduces duplication across the region's councils and there is therefore less pressure on individual local councils to deliver similar campaigns to reach their sustainable transport objectives. The success of this programme relies on the participation and support of the councils in the region.

3. Comment

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) established a Workplace Travel Plan programme in 2006. It was initially set up to assist large employers develop, implement and monitor internal workplace travel plans that were mandated for the public sector as part of the Govt3 sustainability initiative. In 2009, the initiative was abandoned and there was no longer an official mandate for government employers to implement travel plans. Since then, the shape of the Workplace Travel Plan programme has continued to evolve, moving away from working intensely with individual workplaces. Instead, a sustainable transport toolkit was developed, aimed at reaching a broad audience of employers by providing attractive initiatives that offers benefits beyond those of carbon emission reductions. These initiatives include a regional carpooling

website, a health and wellbeing programme promoting walking and cycling to work and sustainable transport workplace competitions.

Other supporting initiatives include a bike buddy scheme where experienced cyclists (volunteers) are partnered up with new riders to accompany them on their regular commute; cycle skills training for six or more staff at a workplace; staff travel surveys to determine the effects of instituting a staff travel plan and a workplace guide (Workplace Travel Toolkit) which outlines a wide range of best practice low cost measures available to workplaces to promote sustainable travel within their organisation

In addition flexible working hours has been promoted as part of workplace travel planning because it has the potential to smooth the morning peak time travel demand and reduce congestion. Many of the large organisations in the Workplace and Business Travel programme and other organisations, including Greater Wellington and other councils across the region, have developed policies or actions supporting flexible working hours.

The Workplace and Business Travel Programme continues to achieve its aims of increasing the numbers of people adopting active modes for their commute to work, increasing carpooling and public transport use and decreasing car usage. Over 80 workplaces participate in the programme representing over 40,000 people. The results from the different programmes continue to be positive and show the benefits of a range of behaviour change programmes to help relieve congestion in the region. New workplaces join the programme each year and new opportunities for encouraging travel behaviour change are being adopted.

This report sets out the general highlights of the Workplace and Business Travel Programme since it started in 2006. **Attachment 1** provides details on the achievements and progress of some of the initiatives within the programme.

4. Communication

The next Regional Workplace and Business Travel Programme report will be presented to the Committee at the same time next year.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report as it is providing the Committee with information.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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ATTACHMENT 1: Regional Workplace and Business Travel Programme