Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 21 February 2020 commencing at 9.30 AM

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**Present:**

**Chairperson:** Cr Lyall Thurston

**Deputy Chairperson:** Cr Jane Nees

**Councillors:** Cr Andrew von Dadelszen, Cr David Love

**Appointees:** Deputy Mayor David Donaldson - Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council, Mayor Judy Turner - Whakatāne District Council, Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles - Alternate, Whakatāne District Council, Ross I'Anson – Acting Director Regional Relationships, Waka Kotahi: New Zealand Transport Agency, Mayor Garry Webber - Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Councillor David Moore - Alternate, Ōpōtiki District Council

**In Attendance:** John Galbraith - Freight Advisor, Dan Kneebone - Port Advisor/Property & Infrastructure Manager, Port of Tauranga, Glen Crowther - Environmental Sustainability Advisor

Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Mat Taylor – General Manager, Corporate, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager, Strategy and Science, Mark Le Comte – Principal Advisor, Finance, Bron Healey – Senior Transport Planner, Amanda Namana – Committee Advisor

External: Janeane Joyce – Channeled Planning and Contracting

**Apologies:** Mayor Lyn Riesterer - Ōpōtiki District Council, Mayor Steve Chadwick - Rotorua Lakes Council, Inspector Brent Crowe – Road Safety Advisor, BOP District Police

# Apologies

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Accepts the apologies from Chairman Doug Leeder, Mayor Lyn Riesterer - Ōpōtiki District Council, Mayor Steve Chadwick - Rotorua Lakes Council, Inspector Brent Crowe – Road Safety Advisor, Bay of Plenty District Police tendered at the meeting.

Thurston/Nees

CARRIED

# Public Forum

Nil

# Acceptance of Late Items

Nil

# General Business

Nil

# Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

# Previous Minutes

## Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 20 December 2019

Matters arising:

* Minute Item 7.1, third bullet point – draft New Zealand Rail Plan:

The Ministry of Transport had requested a meeting hosted by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which would be held at a venue to be confirmed at 12:30pm on Friday, 17 April 2020.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Confirms the Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 20 December 2019 as a true and correct record.

**Nees/Webber**

**CARRIED**

# Reports

## Committee Chair's Report

Senior Transport Planner Bron Healey presented this item on behalf of the Committee Chair.

Key Points

* Highlighted key points from the Transport Special Interest Group submission on draft rail legislation
* KiwiRail representation was now mandated on Auckland and Wellington Regional Transport Committees, with a clause allowing the Minister to determine which other regions might require KiwiRail on their committees
* Noted that the Regional Freight Flows study was now complete and available to the public.

Members’ Comments

* Item 2.5, page 3 of the report was interpreted as ‘in future, growth in bulk agricultural products would be limited and will decrease growth rates”
* Forestry harvest in the Bay of Plenty region was ahead of projection and likely to have limited growth in the future
* The Transport System Plan was restricted to Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga and did not identify significant regional corridors in need of investment
* Supported the business case for reinstating passenger rail between Rotorua and Auckland
* Sensible locations for stock effluent disposal should be considered early in the planning process.

In Response to Questions

* Confirmed that the multi modal plan directed by central government would have a regional framework with components including Rotorua, Western Bay of Plenty and Eastern Bay of Plenty
* Aggregates transport was contained within the growth of construction activities stated in the second bullet point under item 2.5 of the report
* Stock effluent disposal was a complex issue with multi-party funding required and community engagement being critical
* The issue for stock effluent disposal at Tauriko was mostly related to consenting but there were other locations being considered.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Committee Chair's Report.
2. Requests a detailed report on stock effluent disposal be reported back with urgency.

**Thurston/Webber**

**CARRIED**

## New Zealand Transport Agency Update

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID: A3485733* [Presentation: Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Update](https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3488549/content)

Ross I’Anson – Acting Director Regional Relationships, Waka Kotahi: New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) updated the Committee on national and regional initiatives.

Members’ Comments

* Timing and clarity on speed management plans was key in providing clear messages to central government to achieve the goals of the Regional Transport Committee
* Raised concern over patronage decline for public transport in Rotorua
* Additional police resources could make a significant difference to reducing accidents
* Robust plans were important to deliver on outcomes with a change of government
* Raised concern over lack of funding for widening roads and bridges from Waihi to Ōmokoroa
* Opportunities were being missed by not having a funded cycle plan for Tauranga city.

In Response to Questions

* NZTA would be working together with councils on Park and Ride facilities
* Multiple aspects would need to be considered as part of the mode shift plan, including looking at all transport modes on all key corridors
* Aiming to deliver Te Puna to Ōmokoroa road works by the end of the year
* Ways to combine the Rotorua Network Review and Rotorua Mode Shift Plan were being considered to address existing public transport issues and would be reported back to the next meeting of the Committee
* Ministry of Transport consultation on the speed management process would occur in the second quarter of 2020
* Decision-making for speed limit setting may need to go through a bylaw process
* A key message from NZTA was that people should look for the safety rating on the vehicle and buy the safest vehicle they could afford
* Generally a reduction in speed limit was put in place to increase safety in areas where it was difficult to install median barriers through curves in the road
* The State Highway 29 and State Highway 36 intersection safety issues raised would be relayed back to NZTA for consideration
* Provided background information to the Committee about new NZTA appointed member, Steve Mutton, who would be replacing Ross I’Anson.

10.25 am Cr David Moore **entered** the meeting

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, New Zealand Transport Agency Update.
2. Extends a formal invitation to the NZTA CEO, Minister Twyford and Associate Minister Jones to meet with the Regional Transport Committee members to discuss alignment of national and regional priorities, coordinating with the scheduled meeting of 17 April 2020.

**Thurston/Webber**

**CARRIED**

10.47 am – The meeting **adjourned.**

10.47 am – Mayor Powell **withdrew** from the meeting.

11:02 am – The meeting **reconvened.**

## Update from Committee Members and Advisors

**Deputy Mayor David Donaldson – Rotorua Lakes Council**

Key Points

* Rotorua Lakes Council were progressing their housing master plan with central government
* Key transport corridors east, west and south were significantly constrained to land development potential
* CBD transport functionality assessment emphasis was on active modes and public transport
* Had completed the Rotorua network operating framework along with NZTA, forming the basis of the 2021-2024 National Land Transport Programme cases
* Significant traffic management was set for State Highway 5, Fairy Springs Road for the 4-8 March 2020 due to the Crankworx Mountain Bike Festival, for which ticket sales were up 40% from 2019.

**John Galbraith – Freight Advisor**

Key Points

* The New Zealand Upgrade Programme requirement of 800-1,000 direct new jobs in the civil construction industry over the next 12 months and 7-9,000 wider supply chain opportunities fitted with the demand space for driver and operator training being worked on with the Freight Logistics Action Group (FLAG) for the region.

**Cr David Moore – Ōpōtiki District Council**

Key Points

* Speed reviews were being considered, particularly in areas with trucks and heavy traffic.

**Mayor Judy Turner – Whakatāne District Council**

Key Points

* Working with NZTA on areas of projected traffic flow
* Active Whakatāne programme was due to present a plan to council for adoption
* Repair work had now been completed from April 2017 cyclone damage
* Had identified areas prone to accidents around the coastal arterial route
* Ngāi Tūhoe were performing ‘road to nature’ trials, experimenting with more natural products than bitumen with which to treat and seal Te Urewera roads between Murupara and Waikaremoana.

**Mayor Garry Webber – Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

Key Points

* Highlighted the importance of the committee focusing on strategic issues only.

**Dan Kneebone – Port of Tauranga**

Key Points

* Predicted significant growth volumes through the port, particularly in the Tauranga container terminal
* Planning was underway for a 220m berth extension at Sulphur Point
* A new crane had arrived and assembly was underway
* New hybrid straddle carriers had arrived and as many of the existing ones as possible were being converted to hybrid to maximise fuel efficiency
* Service levels in Totara Street were still a substantial issue.

**Glen Crowther – Environmental Sustainability Advisor**

Key Points

* Highlighted the number of businesses putting in place carbon reduction plans with a strong focus on reducing transport emissions and the importance of infrastructure planning to enable them to achieve these goals.

**Cr Nees – Bay of Plenty Regional Council**

Key Points

* Outlined initiatives across the region to increase uptake in public transport use
* A free one year regional tertiary commuter bus trial had been initiated through partnership with Toi Ohomai and University of Waikato
* Free school bus trials for students reported a 60% increase in patronage
* Fare review was underway looking at how to incentivise the use of public transport.

**Ross I’Anson – Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency**

Key Points

* A business case was being undertaken together with Whakatāne District Council, Wairoa District Council and Ngāi Tūhoe for the road to nature initiative.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Update from Committee Members and Advisors.

**Thurston/Turner**

**CARRIED**

## Regional Transport Committee feedback on Arataki

Senior Transport Planner Bron Healey presented this item.

Key Points

* Noted consistency and alignment between Arataki and the Regional Land Transport Plan on key policy provisions
* Volcanic and seismic activity was a strategic risk that was not well covered in the draft
* Climate change effects had major implications for inland transport links as well as coastal.

Members’ Comments

* Consideration had to be given to the potential impact on the Port of Tauranga and the transport network with the outcome of the decision regarding location of an alternate port for Auckland
* Highlighted that the Bay of Plenty was topographically very different to other regions
* Working together to ensure all the plans aligned was crucial
* Logic and process around prioritisation should also be aligned
* Rural roading networks were a major part of product to port transport
* Add a paragraph on how the populations of main urban centres were depicted
* Requested potential high risk corridors State Highway 30 and State Highway 33 be added to the paragraph on highways with resilience issues.

In Response to Questions

* The port had a clear strategic plan in terms of accommodating growth
* Statistics New Zealand urban definitions affected the forecast population change map on page 85 of the agenda.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Regional Transport Committee feedback on Arataki;
2. Updates the draft letter Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee feedback on Arataki in Appendix 2 of the report, subject to adding amendments arising from the Regional Transport Committee meeting held 21 February 2020; and
3. Delegates to the Committee Chair the authority to approve and send the final letter.

**Thurston/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

11.20 am – Mayor Powell **entered** the meeting.

## Update from Committee Members and Advisors - Continuation

**Mayor Tenby Powell – Tauranga City Council**

Key Points

* From a strategic perspective, the growth of the port and increase of heavy vehicle transport had to be at the centre of forward thinking
* It was important to look at the strategies first, which would then lead to tactical discussions.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the update from Mayor Tenby Powell.

**Webber/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

## Tactical Review of the Regional Land Transport Plan

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Tactical Review of the Regional Land Transport Plan;
2. Approves the outcomes of the comparative analysis between the Regional Land Transport Plan 2018 and current government direction detailed in Figure 2 of the report; and
3. Agrees that the review process will focus on two key areas:
   1. the development of ten-year transport investment priorities (and alternative options); and
   2. confirming and applying a prioritisation approach and methodology.

**Webber/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

## Urban Form and Transport Initiative (UFTI) Update

Channeled Planning Contracting consultant Janeane Joyce responded to questions.

In Response to Questions

* Clarified that UFTI was limited to the definition of transport function and received its governance structure through the SmartGrowth Leadership Group
* The Tauranga Transport System Plan was a fully collaborative process which took on the strategic framework of UFTI
* Decision-making in terms of local government responsibilities would not change
* Implementing the UFTI strategic direction would be consistently applied through the separate decision-making processes.

Item for Staff Follow-up

* Mayor Turner to be provided copies of the UFTI interim reports.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Urban Form and Transport Initiative (UFTI) Update.

**Thurston/Nees**

**CARRIED**

## Regional Land Transport Plan Implementation Report

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan Implementation Report.

**Webber/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

## Establishment of an Operational Western Bay Road Safety Group

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Establishment of an Operational Western Bay Road Safety Group;
2. Approves the establishment of the Operational Western Bay Road Safety Group.
3. Notes that the Operational Western Bay Road Safety Group intends to report back to the Regional Transport Committee quarterly.

**Webber/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

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**The meeting closed at 11.48 am.**

Confirmed 8 May 2020                                      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                                                        Cr Lyall Thurston – Chairperson

Regional Transport Committee