Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held via Zoom (Audio Visual meeting), Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Virtual Meeting Room on Friday, 8 May 2020 commencing at 9.30 am.

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**Present:**

**Chairman:** Cr Lyall Thurston

**Deputy Chairman:** Cr Jane Nees

**Appointees:** Mayor Malcolm Campbell - Kawerau District Council, Mayor Tenby Powell - Tauranga City Council, Mayor Garry Webber - Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Mayor Judy Turner - Whakatāne District Council, Mayor Lyn Riesterer - Ōpōtiki District Council, Steve Mutton – Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, Deputy Mayor David Donaldson (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council), Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles (Alternate, Whakatāne District Council, Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour (Alternate, Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Deputy Mayor Faylene Tunui (Alternate, Kawerau District Council), Cr Norm Bruning (Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Cr David Moore (Alternate, Ōpōtiki District Council)

**In Attendance:** John Galbraith - Freight Advisor, Glen Crowther - Environmental Sustainability Advisor, Inspector Brent Crowe, Road Safety Advisor

Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager, Strategy and Science, Mat Taylor – General Manager, Corporate, Annika Lane – Acting Regional Development Manager, Bron Healey – Principal Advisor, Regional Development, Andrew Williams – Transport Planner, Amanda Namana – Committee Advisor

External: Robert Brodnax – UFTI Project Director

**Apologies:** Mayor Steve Chadwick – Rotorua Lakes Council

# Apologies

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Accepts the apology from Mayor Steve Chadwick, tendered at the meeting.

Thurston/Nees

CARRIED

# Public Forum

Nil

# Acceptance of Late Items

Nil

# Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

# Nil

# Previous Minutes

## Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 21 February 2020

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Confirms the Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 21 February 2020 as a true and correct record.

**Thurston/Webber**

**CARRIED**

# Committee Chair’s Report

Chairperson Cr Lyall Thurston provided a verbal update to the committee.

Key Points

* The region faced unprecedented challenges recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, which also presented unique opportunities
* The Bay of Plenty was well placed to see considerable transport projects realised
* Recovery could be expedited by working collaboratively as a region and with central government.

# Reports

## Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Update

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID: A3530558* [PRESENTATION: Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Update](https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3530558/content)

Steve Mutton - Director Regional Relationships, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) updated the committee on current national and regional transport initiatives.

Members’ Comments

* Requested NZTA include upcoming opportunities for engagement on speed management in future reports.

In Response to Questions

* Clarified that the list of projects put through to the Crown Infrastructure partners for consideration were in the current National Land Transport Plan (NLTP), therefore were also in the current Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP)
* As the Government Policy Statement (GPS) was focused on safety the government was investing a large amount of money to achieve the Road to Zero strategy
* The funding assistance rate (FAR) was available for the current NLTP period
* Updated timing for delivery of the modal shift plan was forthcoming after being reviewed following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Update.

**Turner/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

## Bay of Plenty Transport Economic Stimulus Package

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID: A3530112* [PRESENTATION: Bay of Plenty Transport Economic Stimulus Package](https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3530112/content)

Bron Healey – Principal Advisor, Regional Development presented this item.

Members’ Comments

* Acknowledged the Regional Advisory Group and the collaboration of the Territorial Local Authorities (TLA’s) involved in developing the Economic Stimulus Package

In Response to Questions

* Activity listed in the stimulus package was the current activity in the RLTP and there was a forward programme beyond the period of the current plan that involved more funding.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Transport Economic Stimulus Package.
2. Endorses the Bay of Plenty Transport Economic Stimulus Package and recommends it to the Government as a local authority transport sector action plan for the region in response to the impacts of COVID-19.
3. Adds the activities in the Bay of Plenty Transport Economic Stimulus Package to the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan 2018.
4. Determines that the proposed variations are not significant for the purposes of public consultation.

**Webber/ Riesterer**

**CARRIED**

## Regional Land Transport Plan 2021 - development of vision, problems, benefits and objectives

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID: A3536432* [PRESENTATION: Development of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2021](https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3536432/content)

Andrew Williams – Transport Planner presented this item.

Members’ Comments

* Funding streams needed to be taken into consideration for proposed actions
* Alignment between the GPS and the current RLTP could be stronger
* Needed further emphasis and higher prioritisation on environmental outcomes in the vision statement
* Problems and benefits statement needed to align with overlying strategic documents.

## Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan 2021 - development of vision, problems, benefits and objectives;
2. All parties to the 2021 RLTP commit to funding all proposals through their respective Annual Plans and Long Term Plans;

Webber/Powell

CARRIED

1. Notes that the strategic framework of the 2018 Regional Land Transport Plan has alignment with current national policy direction but there is an opportunity for the RTC to review and make amendments;
2. Requests staff to consider comments by members on possible changes to the vision, problem and benefit statements and objectives for inclusion in the draft RLTP 2021; and to arrange a RTC workshop on recommended changes to these components of the RLTP when the signalled COVID-19 related further amendments to the GPS 2021 and other guiding transport documents are known;

Nees/Thurston

CARRIED

1. Notes the proposed next steps in the development of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2021.

**Webber/Powell**

**CARRIED**

**Steve Mutton – NZTA abstained from voting on Resolution 2.**

10.55 am – The meeting adjourned.

11:00 am – The meeting reconvened.

## Regional Land Transport Plan Variation - Western Bay of Plenty Transport System Plan

Bron Healey – Principal Advisor, Regional Development presented this item.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan Variation - Western Bay of Plenty Transport System Plan;
2. Adds the Western Bay of Plenty Transport System Plan to the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan 2018; and
3. Determines that the proposed variation is not significant for the purposes of public consultation;

Webber/Nees

CARRIED

1. That the parties to the UFTI agreement (Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and New Zealand Transport Agency) propose to their respective councils to take through to their Annual Plans and Long Term Plans the funding requirements to meet the agreed outcomes.

**Webber/Thurston**

**CARRIED**

Mayor Lyn Riesterer and Deputy Mayor Dave Donaldson abstained from voting on Resolution 4.

## Submissions on the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and draft New Zealand Rail Plan

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID: A3530114* [PRESENTATION: Submissions on the Draft GPS 2021 and NZ Rail Plan](https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3530114/content)

Bron Healy – Principal Advisor, Regional Development and Andrew Williams – Transport Planner presented this item.

Members’ Comments

* Supported funding in the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) for rail and coastal shipping provided the quality and functionality of the rest of the transport network was not impacted
* Highlighted that resilience was a key outcome of the GPS and that climate change also impacted the resilience of the roading networks
* Sought more guidance on mode neutrality and its application in transport planning in the GPS
* Requested recognition of the emerging urban growth and partnership programmes
* There was not enough emphasis on climate change in the submission
* Highlighted a significant reduction in funding available for rural roads
* Encouraged working closely with the Waikato region.

In Response to Questions

* Inter-regional rail work was being progressed through the UFTI initiative in collaboration with Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Ministry of Transport and Tauranga City Council.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. Receives the report, Submissions on the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and draft New Zealand Rail Plan;
2. Approves the Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee Submission on the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021/22-2030/31 in Appendix 2, subject to any amendments arising from the Regional Transport Committee meeting;
3. Approves the Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee Submission on the draft New Zealand Rail Plan in Appendix 3, subject to any amendments arising from the Regional Transport Committee meeting; and
4. Delegates to the Committee Chair the authority to approve and send the final submissions.

**Thurston/Donaldson**

**CARRIED**

## Urban Form and Transport Initiative (UFTI) Update

Robert Brodnax – UFTI Project Director provided an update to the committee.

11.05 am – Mayor Turner withdrew from the meeting.

Key Points

* First workshop with SmartGrowith Leadership Group (SLG) was scheduled for 20 May 2020
* Aiming to meet with SLG in mid-June 2020 to receive the final report, at which point it would be submitted to the NZTA board for consideration and SLG would move forward with revising the settlement pattern in accordance with the recommendations as part of a refresh of the entire SmartGrowth Strategy.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

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

**Thurston/Nees**

**CARRIED**

11:15 am – Mayor Turner **entered** the meeting.

## 8 Verbal Update from Committee Members and Advisors

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

Key Points

* Transport planning was in progress for moving to Alert Level 2
* UFTI Memorandum of Understanding had been signed.

**Mayor Campbell – Kawerau District Council**

Key Points

* Collaboration and support throughout the region was important for Kawerau as a processing and manufacturing town.

**Deputy Mayor Donaldson – Rotorua Lakes Council**

Key Points

* Final Annual Plan workshop was to be held on 11 May 2020
* Focus had been on the Economic Recovery Plan to inform the Annual Plan process going forward
* Noted the benefits from a lack of traffic on the streets throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period.

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

* Recognised the strength in working together to prioritise projects to take to central government.

**Mayor Turner – Whakatāne District Council**

Key Points

* A petition had been started to reduce speed around the Whakatāne township, signalling that the Covid-19 lockdown had reconnected people to active modes of transport
* Supported the work Kawerau was undertaking with land, port and rail and the benefits that would come from reducing trucks and traffic volumes.

**Glen Crowther – Environmental Sustainability Advisor**

Key Points

* Sustainable Business Network had launched the Carbon Action Plan 2025 on 7 May 2020
* There was a narrow window to effect change
* At a community level there were many aspects of recent circumstances that had benefits to health and wellbeing.

**John Galbraith – Freight Advisor**

Key Points

* Rail was becoming more embedded in peoples thinking and represented a great opportunity to create efficient freight movement and reduce climate impact.

**Brent Crowe – Road Safety Advisor**

Key Points

* The year to date national road toll had been reduced to 12% for the Bay of Plenty compared to 48% at this time last year
* This could be attributed to reduced traffic volumes and an enhanced police presence
* Current focus was on ensuring Covid-19 social distancing protocols were adhered to and that no inappropriate regional travel occurred
* Maintaining the head start in relation to reduced death and serious injuries on the road was important, with the focus being on speed, distraction and impairment
* Welcomed the opportunity to work closely with NZTA and other partners going forward to collectively look at ways of improving the roading system.

**Mayor Riesterer – Ōpōtiki District Council**

Key Points

* Noted the progress of work on Wainui Road to Ōpōtiki from the Safe Network Programme
* Still awaiting confirmation of the speed management review of State Highway 35 and State Highway 2 Waiotahi bluff inclusion
* Requested more work to be done on previous request for reduced speeds on each side of town
* The harbour transformation project was progressing well.

**The meeting closed at 11:58 a.m.**

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Confirmed  7 August 2020                                \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                                                        Cr Lyall Thurston – Chairperson

Regional Transport Committee