

Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 2 February 2018 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: S Crosby (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

Deputy Chairman: J Nees (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

Appointees: Mayor J Forbes (Ōpōtiki District Council), Mayor A Bonne (Whakatāne District Council), Councillors R Curach (Tauranga City Council), B Julian (Alternate, Kawerau District Council), D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council)

In Attendance: J Galbraith (Freight Advisor), Inspector B Crowe (Safety Advisor, NZ Police), Councillors: L Thurston (Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), T Molloy (Alternate, Tauranga City Council), J Palmer (Alternate, Western Bay of Plenty District Council), N Bruning, K Winters (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Mayor G Webber (Western Bay of Plenty District Council); F McTavish (General Manager Strategy & Science), G Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), B Healey (Senior Transport Planner), M Haseley (Principal Transport Planner, NZ Transport Agency), J Paterson (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), M Parkes (Tauranga City Council), S Kameta (Committee Advisor)

Apologies: Mayor M Campbell (Kawerau District Council), Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council), Deputy Mayor D Donaldson (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council), P McLean (Regional Director Waikato/BOP, NZ Transport Agency), A Talbot (Alternate, New Zealand Transport Agency), D Kneebone (Port Advisor)

1 Apologies

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Mayor Campbell, Mayor Chadwick, Deputy Mayor Donaldson, Parekawhia McLean, Alistair Talbot and Dan Kneebone tendered at the meeting.

Crosby/Curach
CARRIED

2 Acceptance of Late Items and General Business

Nil.

3 **Confidential Business to be transferred in open**

Nil.

4 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

Nil.

5 **Previous Minutes**

5.1 **Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 22 November 2017**

Corrections

- 1) Agenda page 11 – Attendances: delete Mayor Forbes, Mayor Campbell and Cr Julian; Apologies: insert Mayor Campbell; within resolution amend mover's name from 'Molloy' to 'Crosby'.
- 2) Agenda page 12 – minute item 6.1, Update from Committee Members and Advisors: amend fifth bullet to read: "Trial of a one-way system incorporating a cycleway around Pilot Bay and Maunganui Road was being investigated."
- 3) Agenda page 14 – continuation of minute item 6.1, under Councillor Thwaites – Western Bay of Plenty District Council, amend first bullet end of sentence to read: "a cost of \$300,000..."
- 4) Agenda page 14 – within resolution of minute item 6.1: replace mover's name from 'Molloy' to 'Thwaites'.
- 5) Agenda page 16 – grammatical correction within second bullet point, removing the word 'was'.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 **Confirms the Regional Transport Committee minutes of 22 November 2017 as true and correct record, subject to the foregoing corrections.**

**Crosby/Nees
CARRIED**

6 **Reports**

6.1 **Update from Committee Members and Advisors**

Committee members and advisors gave a verbal update on transport matters impacting their areas.

Cr Julian, Kawerau District Council

- Due to flooding at the Kawerau overpass, repair works were occurring along with installation of barriers around abutments;
- Some issues were being experienced with the traffic lights at the intersection of State Highway 34 and Fletcher Avenue;

- Installation of a T-intersection and roundabout on State Highway 34 adjacent to the Pūtauaki Industrial Block was anticipated as part of the Transport Agency maintenance programme.

Cr Thwaites, Western Bay of Plenty District Council

- Issue was raised regarding a fatality along State Highway 2 at Te Puna Quarry Road intersection.

Cr Nees, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- Questioned whether the number of truck crashes that had occurred along State Highway 2 through to Waihi could be attributed to an HPMV issue. Staff advised this matter could be addressed during the Transport Agency update in the following item.

Mayor Forbes, Ōpōtiki District Council

- Raised attention to the poor condition of the Ōpōtiki Bridge and the negative image it placed on the township. With substantial numbers of visitors travelling through the town over the summer period, the desire was raised for the Transport Agency to look at a more regular maintenance programme.

Cr Crosby, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- Noted more evidence of changing weather patterns and subsequent future considerations needed to address climate change and water impacts.

Mayor Bonne, Whakatāne District Council

- Noted major congestion experienced at the tear-drop roundabout during the summer period and impacts to the Whakatāne Bridge, due to heavy rainfall and increased river flows and subsequent delay issues getting with contractors, had hindered traffic issues. Long-term development planned on the western side of the Whakatāne River would have a future impact on existing traffic congestion issues.
- Unsealed pavement trial for a special purpose (green) road on State Highway 28 was being pursued and a vision of Tūhoe iwi, with subsequent funding application being submitted to the Transport Agency.

John Galbraith

Nil.

Inspector Crowe

- National road deaths had gained a lot of media attention and involved speed, alcohol and a lack of judgement.
- Three teams operating in the region over the holiday period had caught 55 drink drivers within a two-day period was a disappointing result, but hoped that visibility of the teams would serve as a reminder to drivers.
- Fatalities in December and January had involved vehicles turning and crossing the centreline. NZ Police were meeting with the Transport Agency to discuss what could be done.

- Anecdotal observations of the 110km speed limit along the Tauranga Eastern link for the majority had been well received and complied to.

Cr Curach – Tauranga City Council

- Transport business case and Cycle Action Plan were progressing.
- Analysis and feedback had identified the need to identify a suitable location for the proposed CBD bus interchange and that Willow Street was not ideal.
- Parking capacity and endeavours to accommodate demand and minimise impact on commuters and shoppers was an ongoing issue. A desire for city projects (i.e. e-bikes) to take shape was noted.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Crosby/Julian
CARRIED**

6.2 New Zealand Transport Agency Update

Transport Agency Principal Transport Planner Mark Haseley gave a verbal update on current Transport Agency matters.

1. Further to Minister Twyford's letter, the Ministry of Transport was leading development on the Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2018, which was expected in March 2018 to coincide with investment assessment work;
2. Advice on moderating bids for final transport programmes would be advised after the Transport Agency Board meeting in April 2018;
3. Dame Fran Wilde had been appointed as Acting Chair for the Transport Agency Board with subsequent appointments to be advised. A Board visit to the Bay of Plenty was planned for 19-20 April 2018. Staff were talking with regional partners regarding itinerary options for the visit.

Further to queries raised, members were advised:

4. Regarding large truck crashes along State Highway 2 - Omokoroa to Waihi, the Transport Agency had not identified any specific issues relating to HPMV's, but would continue to monitor. It was noted that the number of deaths along State Highway 2 had reduced, with further safety improvements to continue.
5. The maintenance programme for the Ōpōtiki Bridge would be reviewed.
6. Transport Agency organisation structure and staff roles were still being worked through, with further advice and brochures being prepared for stakeholders in due course. Rob Campbell had been appointed as Manager System Management as the local contact for the Bay of Plenty region, primarily for operations and footprint matters and Parekawhia McLean would continue to be involved as the high level Strategic Relationship Manager.

It was requested that a letter be prepared and sent by the Chair on the Committee's behalf to thank outgoing Board Chairman Chris Moller for his tenure, which was supported by the Chair and members.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, New Zealand Transport Agency Update.**

**Crosby/Bonne
CARRIED**

6.3 Draft Regional Land Transport Plan for Consultation

Refer PowerPoint Presentation (Objective ID A2801594) and Tabled Document 1.

Senior Transport Planner Bron Healey presented a draft Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) for approval for public consultation and sought direction on the composition of the RLTP hearings sub-committee. A presentation outlined the Government's direction and timeframes for release of the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) in June and a summary of proposed changes made to the draft RLTP. A copy of an email from Ministry of Transport - Manager Investment Helen White was tabled for information (refer Tabled Document 1).

Regarding the two-month delay of the GPS, the need to progress the draft RLTP was raised, noting further opportunity to make changes to it during the consultation process.

Advice was received on various matters and the following points noted:

- Fundamental changes to the scope of the GPS in phase two may require changes made to the Land Transport Management Act.
- The draft RLTP provided a 7-year forecast rather than a 10-year forecast, based on information that NZTA had included in their Transport Information Online database. It was noted that Horizons Regional Council had released a draft RLTP for public consultation with a 7-year forecast.
- Members were advised a Regional Visitor Economy Strategy was to be established and that a submission would come through to the draft RLTP.
- A Bay of Plenty rail feasibility study was being proposed and the Committee voiced their support for a placeholder activity to be provided for this work, rather than leaving a review to the Regional Public Transport Plan.

Members provided the following comment and direction in regard to the draft RLTP:

1. Section 2.3.3 Airports: It was requested that wording be expanded in regard to growth of passenger numbers and proposed plans for extending the Whakatāne Airport runway. Staff advised they would follow-up with Whakatāne District Council staff on this matter.
2. Section 2.3.4 Rail: The Committee agreed to remove the first bullet on page 20, following advice received that re-commissioning of the Tāneatua branch line to improve rail access to Eastern Bay of Plenty forestry areas was redundant and outside forestry requirements.

3. Feasibility investigation to extend the Bay of Plenty rail network through to Taupō was supported, as being in line with increased truck and train volumes.
4. Section 2.4.2: Figure 4: Regional Economic Development Projects (page 24): the inclusion of Otakiri water bottling plant; and developing trends to provide for anything coming through i.e. aquaculture, timber, geothermal related industry, forestry was requested. A mechanism for identifying private sector development that was occurring all the time i.e. future changes in kiwifruit logistics impacting on transport network, was raised for consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:47am and reconvened at 11.10 am.

5. Chapter 6: Corridors and Networks:
 - a) Reference to the Kawerau container hub and other potential regional development proposals i.e. Otakiri water bottling, Ōpōtiki sea farms and harbour redevelopment (business case) was requested.
 - b) Population growth was noted as not being linear or translating to transport activity growth and GDP.
6. Chapter 7: Regional Programme:
 - a) Figure 22 (page 76): it was noted that source data for the first three years may not be current and would need to be reviewed;
 - b) Figure 24: Consideration to include an indicative timeline was noted;
 - c) Figure 25: Regional priorities – discussion was raised regarding the order of priorities. It was noted that prioritisation of activities was required by legislation and scored according to the prioritisation process set out in the draft RLTP. The assessment by the Regional Advisory Group would be unlikely to change unless further information was received by the proposing organisation. It was noted that the assessment of W2T Waihi to Omokoroa (Transformed) would be referred back to NZTA to gain a clearer understanding of the primary objective of this activity. Subsequent amendments would be considered through the submission process.
7. It was requested that a KPI for new commercial activities be included. Staff advised a qualitative statement under Chapter 3 would be included.
8. Appendix 1: Figure 34: A request was made to ensure the level of detail included on the SmartGrowth Strategy and the Rotorua Spatial Plan was consistent.
9. Appendix 3: requested the inclusion of the Stock Effluent Treatment Strategy under State Highway improvements.

Discussion followed on the composition of the hearing sub-committee. Members confirmed their availability and non-availability to hear submissions and noted that confirmation would need to be sought from Eastern Bay and Rotorua committee members, following the meeting.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Draft Regional Land Transport Plan for Consultation;**
- 2 Confirms that a review of the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 has been carried out in accordance with section 18CA of the Land Transport Management Act 2003;**
- 3 Determines that the variation to the Regional Land Transport Plan arising from the review is significant for the purposes of public consultation;**
- 4 Approves the draft Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan 2018, including any amendments arising from discussion of the report, for public consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Land Transport Management Act 2003;**
- 5 Delegates to the Committee Chair the power to make minor amendments to the draft Regional Land Transport Plan prior to its release to the public;**
- 6 Appoints a sub-committee to undertake hearings and deliberations, comprising Cr Crosby, Cr Nees, Cr Curach with an Eastern Bay and Rotorua Regional Transport Committee representative to be determined.**

**Bonne/Forbes
CARRIED**

Closing remarks

The Chair thanked members for their input and acknowledged Fiona McTavish and staff for their work.

The meeting closed at 12:31 pm.