

# Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Thursday, 30 March 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** S Crosby

**Deputy Chairman:** J Nees

**Appointees:** Mayor A Bonne (Whakatane District Council), Mayor J Forbes (Opotiki District Council), Mayor M Campbell (Kawerau District Council), Councillor R Curach (Tauranga City Council), Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council), Councillor D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), P McLean (Central North Island Director, New Zealand Transport Agency)

**In Attendance:** J Galbraith (Freight Advisor)<sup>1</sup>, J Hobbs (Katikati Community Board Chair) and J Price (EnviroKatikati Group). S Meakin (Hunters Group). Bay of Plenty Regional Councillors L Thurston (Alternate), N Bruning, J Cronin, D Love, K Winters and P Thompson (Council), M Macleod (Chief Executive), B Healey (Senior Transport Planner), F McTavish (Group Manager Strategy and Science), G Maloney (Transport Policy Manager). C Cassidy (Tauranga City), J Palmer and J Paterson (Western Bay of Plenty District Council). J McCarthy (NZTA Projects Team), A Talbot (NZTA Acting Planning and Investment Manager BOP). S Cubbon (Committee Advisor)

**Apologies:** B Crowe (NZ Police). Councillor R Curach (for lateness)

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## 1 Apologies

### Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts the apology from Inspector Bruce Crowe and (for lateness) from Tauranga City representative, Councillor Rick Curach.

Crosby/Forbes  
CARRIED

## 2 General Business and Tabled Items

### Resolved

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<sup>1</sup> Minute Correction, Regional Transport Committee 30 June 2017

That pursuant to section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be considered at this meeting:

### **Port of Tauranga representation**

Committee Chair, Councillor Stuart Crosby sought consideration from members on inviting the Port of Tauranga to nominate a representative to attend future meetings of the Committee as a non-voting member. It was considered important the Committee had useful representation and the Port of Tauranga was a big player in the region's transport and logistics. Members endorsed the proposal, agreeing that this subject should be included in the next meeting agenda. Meantime Port of Tauranga would be contacted so a representative could attend.

### **3 Public Forum**

Jenny Hobbs, Katikati Community Board Chair and Janet Price from EnviroKatikati were in attendance to request that the Regional Transport Committee publicly support the implementation of a by-pass around the town of Katikati as soon as possible. There had been two announcements from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) in the past and one more recently, but still no by-pass. All development around the town for the previous ten years had been planned for 'when we get the by-pass', traffic volume had increased significantly as had the congestion in the township.

In pointing out that all areas within the region had roading projects they considered in need of urgent attention, members thanked Ms Hobbs and Ms Price for their presentation and invited them to remain and hear the NZTA Regional Relationship Director's report.

### **4 Declaration of conflicts of interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

### **5 Minutes**

#### **5.1 Regional Transport Committee minutes - 16 December 2016**

#### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the Regional Transport Committee minutes - 16 December 2016**

**Chadwick/Nees  
CARRIED**

### **6 Local Government Update**

Members were each given the opportunity to share insights from their respective areas.

Mayor Chadwick acknowledged the very good working relationship with the NZTA and highlighted the problem of congestion build up on Te Ngae Road.

Councillor Nees discussed the joint work going on in the development of the Western Bay of Plenty Public Transport Blueprint and acknowledged the efforts of Public Transport Committee Chairman Councillor Thurston towards improving communications around public transportation in Tauranga.

Councillor Crosby advised Tauranga City Council had formed a Transport Committee and were to include himself as Chair of Regional Transport Committee, Councillor Thurston, and a representative of NZTA as non-voting members.

Ōpōtiki Mayor Forbes reported upgrading of the Pekatahi Bridge was ahead of schedule and he emphasised the need to be mindful of the heavy traffic that comes through from Gisborne.

Mayor Campbell applauded the Committee for talking to Port of Tauranga. He noted most of Kawerau's focus involved the Whakatāne to Tauranga highway. There were big things happening in Kawerau and roading would certainly become an issue.

Councillor Thwaites noted the support of Western Bay of Plenty District Council for all projects in the Plan as they feed in to the Western Bay, especially the Tauriko programme. NZTA was acknowledged for the Te Puke work undertaken.

Members were advised by Mayor Bonne that a Whakatāne District Council District bylaw had been temporarily lifted to allow some trucks through Ōhope while the Pekatahi Bridge was being repaired. A temporary fix to traffic issues at the Landing Road Bridge was in place and would need to be addressed. Given future growth in Coastlands, there needed to be long term planning so an alternative route was in place before crisis point was reached. There were plans for a new water bottling plant which, once operational, could generate an extra 200 heavy vehicle movements per day.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the Local Government Update reporting.**

**Nees/Bonne  
CARRIED**

## **7 New Zealand Transport Agency Update**

*Refer PowerPoint presentation Obj.Ref. A25747*

The update on current NZTA national and regional initiatives was presented by Central North Island Director of Regional Relationships, Parekawhia McLean. She noted there were lots of changes happening, with new technologies coming into the transport space. The Agency was engaging with internal staff and a new organisational structure would be in place in July 2017. Meantime the NZTA quarterly report presented members with progress on State highway business cases being advanced in the region.

An announcement had been made regarding the Katikati Bypass on 14 March 2017, but a Funding Plan had yet to be completed. The Agency was currently engaging with stakeholders and the community at open meetings seeking feedback for the wider SH2 Waihi to Tauranga programme, and affected landowners/stakeholders would be contacted separately. Timing would be addressed in the next stage and the community would be kept fully informed.

Senior Transport Planner, Bron Healey provided an explanation of the prioritisation process and Ms McLean advised the draft Investment Assessment Framework currently out for feedback would include changes that ensured improved alignment with the Government Policy Statement. Members stressed the importance of ensuring corridors were designated. They looked for a long term strategic view, noting the increase in greenhouse gases and asked that environmental impacts be considered.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

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

**Thwaites/Bonne  
CARRIED**

## **8 Submissions on the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the Investment Assessment Framework**

*Refer to PowerPoint presentation Obj.Ref A25790*

Committee approval was sought of submissions on the draft Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2018/19 – 2027/28 and draft Investment Assessment Framework for the 2018-21 National Land Transport Programme. Bron Healey referred to a PowerPoint presentation that summarised the OECD Environmental Performance Reviews relating to New Zealand, and members concurred that environmental issues needed to be reflected in the region's transport policies.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Submissions on the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the Investment Assessment Framework;**
- 2 **Approves the appended submission with amendments, Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee Submission on the Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2018/19-2027/28; and**
- 3 **Approves the appended submission, Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee Submission on the Draft Investment Assessment Framework for the 2018-21 National Land Transport Programme, subject to any amendments arising from the Regional Transport Committee meeting.**

**Crosby/Forbes  
CARRIED**

## **Adjournment**

Members adjourned for morning tea at 10.40am and the meeting reconvened at 11.00am.

## **Attendance**

Councillor Curach joined the meeting at 11.00am.

## **9 Regional Land Transport Plan Annual Report Card 2015/16**

Members chose to take this report as read.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan Annual Report Card 2015/16.**

**Forbes/Curach  
CARRIED**

## **10 Regional Land Transport Plan Implementation Report**

Senior Transport Planner Bron Healey introduced the progress report and questions on some of the activities were responded to by staff from Tauranga City Council and NZTA.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

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

**Bonne/Thwaites  
CARRIED**

## **11 Regional Land Transport Plan Variations - Maungatapu Median Barrier and SH29 Piarere to Tauranga Detailed Business Case**

The report asking that the Committee approve variations to the Regional Land Transport Plan to add Maungatapu Median Barrier and SH29 Piarere to Tauranga Detailed Business Case activities was taken as read.

## **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan Variations - Maungatapu Median Barrier and SH29 Piarere to Tauranga Detailed Business Case;**
- 2 Approves the addition of the SH29A Maungatapu Median Barrier Extension Safety Improvements activity to the Regional Land Transport Plan;**
- 3 Notes that, in the interests of public safety, the activity was added before being reported to the Regional Transport Committee;**
- 4 Adds the 'SH29 Piarere to Tauranga Detailed Business Case' activity to the Regional Land Transport Plan, to replace the following two activities:**

**SH29 Tauriko to Waikato Boundary, NSRRP  
Soldiers Road Realignment and Intersection**

- 5 **Determines that the variations are not significant for the purposes of public consultation.**

**Forbes/Crosby  
CARRIED**

## 12 **Variation to Regional Public Transport Plan contracting units**

The purpose of this report was to consult with the Regional Transport Committee on a significant variation to the Regional Land Transport Plan relating to the contracting of unit structures. The Regional Council was consulting on a variation that would allow for bus services in Tauranga and Te Puke to be tendered for in two units based on geographical location and which would combine regional, school and urban services in each. These services were currently contracted under three school units, a single urban unit and a single regional unit.

Under the proposed variation an additional unit would also be included that would allow future deployment of new vehicle types or innovative services (driverless vehicles, electric vehicles, rail, etc).

### **Resolved**

**That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Variation to Regional Public Transport Plan and public transport contracting units;**
- 2 **Supports the Regional Council Public Transport Committee's position on the proposed Regional Public Transport Plan variation.**

**Forbes/Curach  
CARRIED**

**The meeting closed at 11.23am.**