

Minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Friday, 30 June 2017 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 A Bonne (Whakatāne District Council), Councillor R Curach (Tauranga City Council), Councillor B Julian (Alternate, Kawerau District Council), Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council), Councillor D Thwaites (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), N Johansson (Alternate, State Highway Manager Waikato/BOP, NZ Transport Agency), Inspector B Crowe (Road Safety Advisor, BOP District Police), J Galbraith (Freight Advisor).

In Attendance: Alternates: L Thurston (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), J Palmer (Western Bay of Plenty District Council); A Iles (Whakatāne District Council); Councillor Bruning (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), F McTavish (General Manager Strategy & Science), G Maloney (Transport Policy Manager), B Healey (Senior Transport Planner), J Mack (Sustainable Transport Officer), A Talbot (Planning and Investment Manager BOP, NZ Transport Agency), S Kameta (Committee Advisor).

Apologies: Mayor M Campbell (Kawerau District Council), P McLean (Regional Director Waikato/BOP, NZ Transport Agency), Mayor J Forbes (Ōpōtiki District Council)

1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Regional Council:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Mayor Campbell, Parekawhia McLean and Mayor Forbes tendered at the meeting.

Crosby/Thwaites
CARRIED

2 General Business and Tabled Items

Nil.

3 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 **Previous Minutes**

4.1 **Regional Transport Committee Minutes - 30 March 2017**

Correction

Minutes page 1 (page 11 of the agenda): Insert "J Galbraith (Freight Advisor)" as being in attendance.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Confirms the Regional Transport Committee minutes of 30 March 2017 as a true and correct record, with the foregoing correction.**

**Crosby/Nees
CARRIED**

4.2 **Public Excluded Regional Transport Committee minutes - 30 March 2017**

Correction

Minute Item 2 (page 17 of the agenda): Resolution to Readmit the Public – replace "NAMES" with Councillor Crosby (mover) and Councillor Nees (second).

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Confirms the Public Excluded Regional Transport Committee Minutes of 30 March 2017 as a true and correct record, with the foregoing correction.**

**Crosby/Thwaites
CARRIED**

5 **Reports**

5.1 **Update from Committee Members and Advisors**

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

Councillor Curach - Tauranga City Council

- Tauranga City was experiencing an 11% growth in traffic numbers, placing pressure on TCC.
- Shortlisting for the Tauranga Transport business case would be released for public consultation in August/September 2017.

- Uber was planning to come to Tauranga, which may provide some relief for the City's transport congestion issues.
- A one-way system with cycleways is to be trialled around Pilot Bay.
- LED street lighting would be introduced in 2018, with 85% of costs subsidised by NZTA.
- A Tauranga Cycle Action Plan would be released for consultation in October 2017.
- High level preliminary investigations were underway into a Transport CCO.
- An Innovation Lab workshop had been scheduled with key staff to look at parking demand and solutions.
- A joint communication plan with NZTA and Regional Council had been undertaken with positive benefits anticipated to reduce travel time.

Councillor Julian - Kawerau District Council

- The Whakatāne to Tauranga highway remained the key focus, in particular ramifications and impact of commercial truck movements on the network. As no framework was currently in place to monitor the issue, it was considered an advisor from the Port of Tauranga and KiwiRail would be valuable. Councillor Julian emphasised the importance of forward planning.

Mayor Bonne – Whakatāne District Council

- The Pekatahi Bridge and Waimana Gorge recently reopened.
- Meetings were being held with Tūhoe and NZTA to discuss the status of roads and alternate routes in areas still heavily affected by the floods.
- The teardrop solution at Landing Road remained in place to manage traffic congestion. WDC's Project and Services Committee would be receiving a report on future plans and the intention to retain the teardrop barrier.

Councillor Nees – Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- Decision had been made to retain the SH1/29–ECMT Joint Steering Group to maintain core objectives of advocacy, awareness and strategic planning. Terms of Reference changes included alternate chairmanship, quarterly meetings and rotation of venues. A key point of discussion was the potential to utilise and improve alternate routes to alleviate State Highway vulnerability and to consider bringing this forward as a high priority, with potential for Government funding.

Inspector Crowe – NZ Police

- Advised of 185 road deaths nationally with 21 deaths locally, which was up on last year.
- Continuation of education on seatbelts remained a focus.
- Resources had been mobilised for the Lions Tour, with a focus on ensuring high presence, engagement and visibility.
- Red light infringements were noted as an emerging trend. Territorial authorities were asked to ensure correct phasings at installations.

Councillor Crosby – Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- Feedback received on the Western Bay Public Transport Blueprint had noted support for proposed improvements while significant concerns around school buses were raised.
- Superannuation NZ had raised the issue of a growing aged population and how urban form can impact on social outcomes.

John Galbraith – Freight Advisor

- Noted an increase in freight and rail with a change in shape of transport movement seen as positive.
- Transport logistics and operations to be promoted at an upcoming Career Expo.

Mayor Chadwick – Rotorua Lakes Council

- Acknowledged and noted free buses provided during the All Blacks vs Lions match had been a gesture that assisted greatly, with timely pickups.
- Noted Eastern Corridor Stage 1 business case was progressing but the lack of a fully funded corridor business case was a barrier to investment.
- Rotorua spatial plan was almost complete and had identified moderate growth and demand on housing and infrastructure.
- The Mayoral Taskforce was working to establish a free Universal Youth Driver Licensing Programme, as part of NCEA level 2.
- Early indications of research undertaken on cycling had indicated an increase in user uptake, with New Zealand fast becoming known as a cycling culture.

Councillor Thwaites – Western Bay of Plenty District Council

- Substantial number of community meetings were held on the WBOPDC Long Term Plan.
- Te Puna-Ōmokoroa corridor intersection options have significant implications for the WBOPDC LTP. Council was looking for clarity from the NZTA.
- Another section of the Ōmokoroa Cycle track had opened, with the Waihi Bridge walkway opening that day, along with other walkways opening in the following week.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

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

**Chadwick/Julian
CARRIED**

5.2 Appointment of Port Advisor

The report sought the appointment of a Port Advisor onto the Committee.

It was noted that the recommended representative may not be able to attend some meetings, therefore members agreed to include provision for an alternate Port Advisor to be appointed.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Appointment of Port Advisor; and**
- 2 Appoints Dan Kneebone, Port of Tauranga Property and Infrastructure Manager, as the Port Advisor to the Committee and agrees to include provision for an alternate Port Advisor to be appointed.**

**Nees/Curach
CARRIED**

5.3 New Zealand Transport Agency Update

Refer PowerPoint Presentation and Movie Clip: Obj IDs A2635341, A2635352.

The quarterly report on national and regional initiatives of the New Zealand Transport Agency was presented by NZTA representatives Alastair Talbot and Niclas Johansson.

Members received the following information and advice:

- Good feedback had been received following engagement on options to enhance the Waihi to Tauranga corridor.
- Consultation was still forthcoming on the Tauranga SH2 Northern link, with opportunity for the Committee to input.
- New tolling demand management nuances were being considered, with testing to be undertaken on levels of interest and feedback. The need to incentivise tolling and take a whole network perspective to consider tolling sensitivities, route resilience and susceptibility were raised.
- A presentation and movie clip provided a snapshot of NZTA's draft Long Term Strategic View (LTSV). Key priorities, challenges and outcomes that NZTA wanted to work with partners across the sector were outlined. The LTSV would encompass all transport systems, influence the National Land Transport Programme and set direction for Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTP). The anticipated timeframe for its completion was the end of 2017. Mr Talbot advised that RLTPs would need to be completed prior to the LTSV and that NZTA staff would work with the Committee and Council staff to ensure necessary content was included within the RLTP. Challenges in engaging with Iwi as part of the consultation process were noted. It was suggested that NZTA engage with the Whakatane District Council Iwi Chair's Forum as an avenue.
- An outline was presented on the draft Bay of Plenty State Highway Investment Proposal emphasising a wider transport system approach and early engagement and collaboration with regional partners. The outline included a timeline for submitting and lodging the programme with NZTA by 30 April 2018.

Members looked forward to working with NZTA on the LTSV and RLTP.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

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

**Bonne/Curach
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.07 am and reconvened at 11.25 am.

5.4 Regional Land Transport Plan Strategic Context and Policies

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Obj ID A2641630

Senior Transport Planner Bron Healey presented four draft chapters of the Regional Land Transport Plan for the Committee's consideration.

Members supported the overall proposed structure and were satisfied with Chapter 9: Monitoring and Review. The following feedback was provided on the remaining chapters for staff consideration:

- Chapter 1: Introduction – amend the vision to “Best transport systems for a growing economy and a safe, healthy and vibrant Bay lifestyle”.
- Chapter 2: Strategic Context
 - a) Section 2.1, consider including Taupo within the wider UNI context. Regarding reflecting other inter-regional journeys, Mr Healey noted the intent to keep key strategic drivers at a high level.
 - b) Society (strategic driver): consider ‘lifestyle’ as an additional bullet. Increased congestion and education of driving rules and behaviours were raised as a consequence of migration. Recognition that activities also impacted on traffic congestion was noted.
 - c) Economy (strategic driver): It was noted that log export figures were increasing in advance of the 2018 figure. Water bottling proposals were also raised as an economic driver.
 - d) Environment (strategic driver): carbon neutrality and opportunities to electrify rail were raised as future offsets to climate change effects. Members requested a stronger driver to reduce carbon emissions.
- Chapter 5: Policies – provision was sought for Iwi development plans and aspirations to be reflected, along with social development aspects to enable transport connectivity.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Plan Strategic Context and Policies.**
- 2 Notes the feedback provided by the Committee at the meeting.**

**Crosby/Chadwick
CARRIED**

5.5 Katikati Bypass

The report informed the Committee of the status of the Katikati Bypass and how it would be factored into the current and next Regional Land Transport Plan. Transport Policy Manager, Garry Maloney confirmed that a copy of the report had been provided to Jenny Hobbs and Janet Price, who had spoken in the Public Forum on the matter at the previous Committee meeting on 30 March 2017.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, Katikati Bypass.**

**Curach/Thwaites
CARRIED**

5.6 **2017/18 Regional Road Safety Action Plan**

The report sought the Committee's approval of the 2017/18 Regional Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP).

BOP District Police Inspector Crowe reported that police targets for testing of methamphetamine was becoming a big issue of concern however, confirmed that alcohol was still the largest contributing factor for road accidents, which could be easily detected.

It was noted that the RSAP did not mention that one of the biggest barriers to employment for young people was the lack of a driver's licence, which was particularly acute in rural and provincial communities and those with high deprivation. LGNZ had advocated for the implementation of a universal, free and all accessible drivers licensing programme in New Zealand schools, with the Steering Aotearoa initiative launched in Central Hawkes' Bay and being progressed by the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ).

It was requested that reference to the MTFJ initiative and LGNZ's position be included in the RSAP, to which the Committee agreed.

Resolved

That the Regional Transport Committee:

- 1 Receives the report, 2017/18 Regional Road Safety Action Plan;**
- 2 Approves the 2017/18 Bay of Plenty Regional Council Road Safety Action Plan, with an amendment to reference the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs' Steering Aotearoa initiative and LGNZ position that there should be a universal, free and all accessible drivers licensing programme in New Zealand schools.**
- 3 Confirms that the decision has a low level of significance.**

**Chadwick/Nees
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.