



Report 04.269
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Dialogue with Government

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the government's future intentions for transport issues in the Wellington region.

2. Background

On 6 May 2004, Greater Wellington Regional Council received a letter from the Minister of Transport (**attachment 1**). On 10 May the Chair of the Greater Wellington, the Chair of the RLTC and the Chief Executive of Greater Wellington met with the Minister and advisors from the Ministry of Transport and Treasury to discuss these proposals.

It was agreed that as a first step officers would jointly develop terms of reference for this exercise, including scope, reporting structures, workstreams, and timeframes.

3. Discussion

Matters of representation, participation by key stakeholders and agents, and communication with appropriate groups including RLTC are central in the discussions. A multi layered approach is anticipated, similar to that developed for other RLTC exercises and that being developed for the western corridor, ie there would be both political and technical working groups, and some dedicated resource. There is no intention of duplication or delaying ongoing related exercises (eg western corridor review, RLTS review, regional development strategy) – rather these would be treated as workstreams feeding into this one. The task of ensuring the various exercises knit together will challenge the RLTC and its supporting officers.

Apart from ensuring that the developed regional transport programme is consistent with government expectations (eg the New Zealand transport strategy and the LTMA), the focus of this exercise is understood to be

implementation, including addressing the sundry barriers to implementation of a developed regional transport programme. Acceleration of the programme is therefore one issue but not the only nor necessarily the main issue. Media coverage accentuating the possibilities of imminent acceleration may be distorting expectations. Also relevant for example are proposals that could assist implementation of an RLTS over the medium and longer term.

While this is reminiscent of the similar exercise conducted in Auckland in 2003, it is not anticipated that the Wellington exercise will be as lengthy or complex as that:

- This exercise can build on work done in Auckland.
- Earlier work done by this RLTC over the last decade, especially in the modelling stages of the RLTS and corridor plans, anticipates much of the work required.
- There is a regionwide, multi-modal, appropriately sequenced and largely agreed package already in existence, ie the regional transport programme presented at RLTC and mayoral forum late in 2003. There is little scope for unanticipated projects. While there is obviously “an elephant in our next” in the form of western corridor roading options, there are sound processes being put in place for dealing with that. Moreover there is a clear, accepted and every-improving means of reviewing and updating the programme via normal RLTC processes.
- Via the RLTC’s annual monitoring report there is an existing reporting system around the indicators, trends, implementation progress and barriers to implementation.
- Thanks to the mayoral forum and regional leaders’ meetings over the last 12 months, there are now good communications in place with a range of key influencers and related processes in the region.

4. Communication

GWRC officers will be contacting regional stakeholders in the next few weeks in the course of developing terms of reference. It is anticipated that the exercise itself will lead onto further briefings in later months. Separate reports on the exercise will be tabled at RLTC meetings, and updates presented at relevant RLTC workshops. *Transport Futures* is available as a vehicle for disseminating further information as appropriate, but may need to be supplemented. RLTC members have a continuing role in communicating these matters to their nominating organisations.

5. Recommendation

That the Committee note the report and receive its contents.

Report prepared by:



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Attachment:

1 – Letter to GWRC from the Minister of Transport received 6 May 2004