



Report **06.140**
Date 19 April 2006
File TP/03/11/01

Committee **Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee**
Author **Terry McDavitt Councillor**

Western Corridor Plan

1. Purpose

To amend to Regional Land Transport Strategy to include the Western Corridor Plan (April 2006) prepared by the Regional Land Transport Committee.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

On 29 August 2005, the Regional Land Transport Committee approved a draft Proposed Western Corridor Plan for the purposes of public consultation. The Committee established a Hearing Sub-committee to hear and consider submissions on the proposed Western Corridor Plan and to prepare a report presenting its findings to the Regional Land Transport Committee and Transit New Zealand.

Following a lengthy hearing process, the Sub-committee released its report on 8 March 2006. On 13 March the Regional Land Transport Committee received the Sub-committee's report and endorsed in principle the proposed amendments to the Western Corridor Plan.

Following the 13 March meeting, officers prepared a Western Corridor Plan for inclusion in the Regional Land Transport Strategy, based on the Sub-committee's report but prepared in the style of the corridor plans in the current Regional Land Transport Strategy. This Plan was adopted by the Regional Land Transport Committee on 11 April with minor amendments. The Regional Land Transport Committee recommended that Greater Wellington amends the Regional Land Transport Strategy by replacing the Western Corridor Implementation Plan (1999) with the Western Corridor Plan (April 2006).

4. Western Corridor Plan (April 2006)

The Western Corridor Plan: Otaki to Ngauranga Merge (April 2006) that has been recommended by the Regional Land Transport Committee is included as Attachment 1 to this Report.

5. Statutory considerations

The function of the Regional Land Transport Committee is to prepare for approval by Greater Wellington the regional land transport strategy prepared under section 175 of the Land Transport Act 1998 (LTA).

Section 175(2) of the LTA sets out a series of matters that a regional land transport strategy must take into account, contribute to, identify, include or provide for. In addition, sections 175(3) and (4) states that a regional land transport strategy may not be inconsistent with any regional policy statement or plan under the Resource Management Act 1991; or with any national land transport strategy.

Some concern was expressed at the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting on 11 April that the Western Corridor Plan did not satisfy these tests. However, it is clear from paragraph 1.21 of the Sub-committee's report that its findings had regard to all of the provisions of section 175. Material prepared to that effect has subsequently been circulated and a summary is included as Attachment 2 to this report.

Officers have confirmed that in their view, inclusion of the Western Corridor Plan (April 2006) into the Regional Land Transport Strategy will not make that Strategy inconsistent with the Regional Policy Statement.

I am satisfied that all of the requirements of section 175 have been met.

6. Role of Transit New Zealand

Transit New Zealand has no formal role in the approval process for the Regional Land Transport Strategy. However, in exercising or performing their functions, duties or powers, they must ensure that they take into account any current regional land transport strategy.

7. Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy

The Regional Land Transport Committee is currently preparing a draft Regional Land Transport Strategy for consultation in November this year. The draft will include the Western Corridor Plan (April 2006), subject to any necessary updates.

8. Communication

A press release will be prepared to publicise Greater Wellington's decision. In addition, copies of the amendment will be sent to the persons specified in section 179(1) of the LTA and will be publicly available.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Recommends** that Council:

Being satisfied that the requirements of section 175 of the Land Transport Act 1998 have been met, amends the Regional Land Transport Strategy by replacing the Western Corridor Implementation Plan (1999) with the Western Corridor Plan (April 2006) included as Attachment 1 to this Report.

.Report prepared & approved by:



Terry McDavitt
Councillor

Attachment 1: Western Corridor Plan (April 2006)

Attachment 2: Section 175 assessment

Attachment 3: Assessment Matrix on Western Corridor Options