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Committee Regional Land Transport  
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## Agency Progress Report on Implementing the Regional Land Transport Strategy

### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress in implementing the projects, activities and action programmes of the Regional Transport Programme in the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS 2007 – 2016).

### 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

The Committee is required by the Land Transport Act 1998 to provide an annual report on implementing the RLTS. The Annual Monitoring Report documents implementation progress as well as some 100 indicators to gauge progress towards achieving the objectives of the strategy. This **quarterly report** focuses on agency progress towards implementing the projects, activities and action programmes set out in the RLTS 2007- 2016 Regional Transport Programme, as reported by the lead agencies. Progress is reported for the quarter to **31 March 2008**.

A comprehensive reporting methodology has been developed to update the Committee on the overall progress of all regional projects, activities and implementation plan action programmes (**Attachment 1**). Detailed progress including commencement and completion dates is given. Descriptions of all Passenger Transport Programme projects and activities, Strategic Roading Programme projects and implementation plan action programmes (Travel Demand Management, Cycling, Pedestrian and Road Safety) are included in the associated attachments.

This report relies on information provided by a number of agencies and can only be as good as the updated feedback received from those agencies. The

Transport Policy & Strategy Division would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the numerous agencies that are required to regularly provide updated material for this report.

## **4. Progress**

The following provides a brief summary of the highlights during the third quarter of 2007/08.

### **4.1 Ngauranga to Airport Strategic Transport Study**

The study project team comprises officers from Transit New Zealand, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington, assisted by consultants OPUS. A public consultation on the various options to improve the corridor was completed on 22 February 2008. A draft corridor plan is reported to the Committee in a separate item on this order paper.

### **4.2 Regional Rail Plan**

After a long delay, due to the late release of the census data from Statistics NZ, testing of the economics of the various rail development scenarios is underway. The Technical Working Group, which includes Toll NZ, ONTRACK, Land Transport NZ and Greater Wellington have met and discussed the preliminary results and further operational variables. The team is now proceeding with refined model runs, a series of sensitivity tests and alternative capital programmes. Work has also begun on the funding and implementation elements of the plan. The final document is due mid year and will be reported to stakeholders.

### **4.3 Passenger Transport Projects**

Greater Wellington is the lead agency for all passenger transport projects. See **Attachment 2** for detailed progress. Highlights this quarter are:

#### **4.3.1 New rolling stock – new Electric Multiple Units (EMU) procurement**

In 2007 Rotem/Mitsui was selected as the preferred tenderer to supply 35 two-car electric commuter trains with options for an additional 13 two-car units. Delivery is expected to commence in early 2010. The project is currently in the mobilisation phase where Rotem is establishing all its resources and submitting various project plans for review.

#### **4.3.2 Additional capacity trains**

Engineering work for the supply of the six carriages for the SE train is making good progress at Toll NZ's workshop in Dunedin. The carriages will be owned by Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL). The EO electric locomotives (owned by Toll NZ with GWRL funding the re-commissioning work) which will haul the SE train are also progressing well at Toll NZ's Hutt workshop. This rolling stock is targeted to be in service by December 2008.

The re-commissioning work for the other two English Electric EMU trains comprising two cars each is in progress. GWRL will own one of the two trains and is funding the re-commissioning work and lease of the other (Ferryhead) unit through Toll NZ. Both trains are expected to be in service by September 2008.

#### 4.3.3 Kapiti railway stations

The scoping report on the Kapiti Railway Station Concept has been presented to the Transport and Access Committee. The Committee has agreed to proceed with concept designs of Paraparaumu Station, Waikanae Station, Lindale Station and end-of-line train stabling facilities. A funding application will then be made for the detailed design and construction of upgrades to Paraparaumu Station, Waikanae Station and end-of-line train stabling facilities.

The full report will be finalised mid year.

#### 4.3.4 MacKay's to Waikanae double tracking (and electrification to Waikanae)

Work is progressing according to ONTRACK's programme with the final versions of their consenting strategy, procurement plan, and design basis reports underway.

ONTRACK and its designers (Opus/KBR) have considered the final geotechnical survey report and produced a construction programme. Preliminary civil works are scheduled to start in June 2008. ONTRACK have completed track cost estimates and signals concept plans.

Greater Wellington and ONTRACK continue to work together to integrate all works in the Kapiti District.

#### 4.3.5 Johnsonville tunnels upgrades

ONTRACK have appointed Connell Wagner as designers and project managers. Connell Wagner has produced:

- a concept retaining wall design report
- a concept drainage design report
- a geological stability assessment report.

ONTRACK and Greater Wellington are working with Tranz Metro to minimise the disruption to services as the scale of the work will require track occupations.

#### 4.3.6 Real time information

Design phase funding for the Real Time Information Project has been approved by Land Transport NZ. The Request for Tender to appoint a consultant for the project was issued in early March 2008 and closed on 1 April 2008. The consultant is expected to start work in May 2008.

#### 4.3.7 Integrated ticketing

Following the recommendations of consultants Booz Allen Hamilton, further investigation is being undertaken into the potential for and implications of establishing electronic ticketing on the rail network, with a view to it forming part of a future integrated ticketing scheme.

In the meantime, a proprietary smartcard based ticketing scheme is being trialled by NZ Bus at their own commercial risk, with a view to its launch in June 2008. This innovation is being closely monitored. Work continues internally on fares revision policy, which would form an underlying structure to any future integrated ticketing scheme.

In Auckland ARTA's tendering phase for their integrated ticketing scheme has closed and tenders are under evaluation. ARTA's approach may inform the formulation of a model for future development in Wellington.

In the light of the above developments, a report will be taken to the Transport and Access Committee in due course, detailing the Council's position on integrated ticketing and discussing possible responses and ways forward.

#### 4.3.8 Bus stop and shelter maintenance

Sixteen new bus shelters will be installed across the region during May/June 2008.

### 4.4 Passenger Transport Activities

Greater Wellington is also the lead agency for all passenger transport activities (these are listed in **Attachment 3**). Relevant points to note for the quarter:

#### 4.4.1 Trolley bus services

##### **Trolley bus replacement programme**

Two new generation prototype trolley buses with improved accessibility were launched in December 2007. As a result there are now five new generation trolley buses on the road. Two different seating arrangements are currently being trialled with the results known in May 2008.

Three more trolley buses will be delivered in April 2008 with three per month until November 2009. The total number of new trolley buses coming into service will be 61.

##### **Overhead trolley bus wires**

There is nothing to report this quarter.

#### 4.4.2 Review of Kapiti bus/train connections

Surveys of travel behaviour and the performance of bus/train connections in the Kapiti area were carried out in May, August and September 2007 in

response to pressure on the park and ride facilities at Paraparaumu. The following possible actions to relieve pressure on the park and ride in Paraparaumu were identified:

- Free transfers between bus and train
- Improved reliability of train running times
- Increased connection times
- Charging for car parking
- Improved cycle facilities
- Free cycle carriage on trains
- Better publicised bus services.

Options surrounding park and ride issues continue to be investigated and will be reported to the Transport and Access Committee.

## **4.5 ONTRACK update**

### **4.5.1 Significant network operational issues**

#### **North Island Main Trunk Line (NIMT) – Wellington to Paraparaumu**

- In early January 2008 four freight trains were delayed by 36 hours due to flood damage at Otaki. Metro services were also delayed due to the freight trains stalling at Pukerua Bay.
- In late January 2008, a metro unit caused damage to overheads at Takapau Road resulting in moderate delays to non-peak services.
- In early February 2008 a lightning strike at Mana caused delays to morning services of up to one hour.
- In late March 2008 a goods train locomotive failure at Pukerua Bay delayed metro services by up to 90 minutes.
- Minor issues causing delays of up to 10 minutes are summarised below:
  - Signal system failure (including power): 3 instances

#### **Wairarapa Line – Wellington to Masterton**

- There were two significant delays this quarter, both occurring in March. The first was the result of an EMU failure at Trentham which had to be pushed to Upper Hutt. A diesel locomotive failure at Maymorn delayed four Wairarapa services by 90 – 170 minutes.
- Minor issues causing delays of up to 10 minutes are summarised below:
  - Signal system failure (including power): 1 instance

#### **Johnsonville Line**

There is nothing to report this quarter.

### **Melling and Gracefield Lines**

There is nothing to report this quarter.

#### **4.5.2 Catch up maintenance works**

The accelerated pole replacement and normal track and signal maintenance programs are progressing.

#### **4.5.3 Improvement works**

### **McKays to Waikanae double tracking**

The final concept designs have been signed off with staging options now being evaluated. The design for two train stabling options for Waikanae is currently being investigated.

### **Johnsville Tunnel lowering**

The initial tunnel lowering methodology is nearing completion. Detailed design for the tunnels has commenced. Planning for the staging of the work has commenced and actual works anticipated to commence from Christmas 2008.

### **Kaiwharawhara Throat Project**

Alignment design and staging methodology are in their final phases.

### **EMU introduction**

Greater Wellington, ONTRACK and Toll continue to work closely on this critical project. ONTRACK's contributions include evaluating the network for power, signaling and clearance issues around platforms and arranging the necessary upgrade works. As the EMU design takes shape ONTRACK will get a clearer picture of what it needs to do to the network and other areas.

## **4.6 Roothing Projects**

**Transit New Zealand** is the lead agency for most of the strategic roading projects identified in the RLTS. See **Attachment 4** for detailed progress. Progress to note on roading projects led by Transit New Zealand includes:

#### **4.6.1 Dowse to Petone Grade Separation (Hutt Corridor)**

Construction works are progressing well. Northbound state highway traffic has been diverted onto the service road and the diversion north of Dowse Drive has been extended along the alignment of the northbound on and off ramps. Completion is expected in the first quarter of 2010.

#### **4.6.2 Moonshine Hill Road Intersections (Hutt Corridor)**

This safety project is nearing completion.

#### 4.6.3 Western Link Road (Western Corridor)

**Kapiti Coast District Council** is the lead agency on the Western Link Road project (Western Corridor).

Western Link Road Stages 1- 3 are progressing. The Stage 1 investigation is almost complete and the design phase is underway. Designations have been obtained and work on Stage 1 resource consents is continuing with three of four consents approved. A funding application to Land Transport New Zealand has been made for advanced land purchase (see **Attachment 4**).

#### 4.7 Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of TDM Plan Activities which are detailed in **Attachment 5**. The status of some TDM actions is given below:

##### 4.7.1 Integrated land use and transportation

Greater Wellington actively participated in the Johnsonville, Porirua and Waikanae Town Centre Development Urban Design Workshops as well as the Adelaide Road Community Workshop.

##### 4.7.2 Greater Wellington's Travel Plan Programme

###### **School Travel Plans**

The school travel plan programme has continued to gain momentum and is exceeding expectations in terms of uptake and enthusiasm from the schools involved. Eleven schools are now participating with a number of schools keen to develop travel plans through 2008.

Greater Wellington's school travel planner continues to work with numerous schools and Territorial Authorities with their own complementary programmes. Positive media coverage for the programme continues including features in all local community newspapers.

A Wairarapa School Travel Plan Coordinator has been appointed on a 12 month fixed term contract to expand the School Travel Plan Programme in the Wairarapa Districts.

Greater Wellington welcomes the endorsement and support from the Ministry of Education for school travel plans as a good fit with the recently launched New Zealand Curriculum. This reflects an increasing emphasis on sustainability. The Secretary for Education provided a presentation on travel plans and Greater Wellington's programme to a recent School Trustees Association meeting. In addition, an article was featured in the December 2007 issue of Board View and in the February 2008 New Zealand Education Gazette.

###### **Workplace Travel Plans**

Greater Wellington is working with approximately 10 organisations to assist with the development of workplace travel plans that encourage sustainable travel to work including Victoria University, Capital and Coast District (CCDHB) and Hutt Valley District Health Boards (HVDHB) and local and central government departments. The CCDHB plan, which commenced two years ago and was a pilot travel plan for the region, has re-surveyed staff to determine travel patterns post implementation. The information gained will be useful in directing the DHB with further implementation work.

In addition to the formal Workplace Travel Plan Programme other related activities during the quarter have included:

- Progressing the investigations for changes to fringe benefit tax rules to encourage initiatives that contribute to sustainable travel. Consultation was undertaken with stakeholders about proposed changes to fringe benefit tax rules to encourage initiatives that contribute to sustainable travel to work. A report was presented to the Transport & Access Committee in late March 2008.
- Hosting a quarterly regional Workplace Travel Planner Forum in March 2008. The Forum assists those working on workplace travel plans in the region and provides valuable networking opportunities and sharing of travel plan progress and lessons learned.
- Production of general guidelines for setting up workplace carpooling programmes and guaranteed ride home programmes which can be found at: [www.gw.govt.nz/travelplans](http://www.gw.govt.nz/travelplans).
- Development of a Smart Travel Discount Card providing travel plan programme organisations 10-15% discounts from cycle, outdoor footwear and apparel shops throughout the region. Any staff from a participating organisation who have signed up for the discount card, are eligible for the discount cards. This initiative commenced in March 2008.

## 4.8 Cycling Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of Cycling Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 6**. Activity progress to note is:

### 4.8.1 Regional Cycling Plan review

A review of the Regional Cycling Plan is underway. This plan identifies actions to implement the Regional Land Transport Strategy and will influence investment decisions and transport planning in relation to cycling over the next 10 years. As part of the review a background issues paper has been developed and a stakeholder workshop held to identify the current policy setting, trends and statistics, and key issues to be addressed.



#### 4.8.2 Cycling Events

Greater Wellington again worked in partnership with local authorities providing a financial contribution to the promotion of cycling events throughout the region over summer and during the Bike Wise week Mayoral Challenge. The following events took place in February of this year:

##### **Porirua Family Wheels Day with Porirua City Council**

This family event which began in 2006 was held on Saturday 14 February 2008 on the Ara Harakeke shared path adjacent to SH1 between Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay. 300 participants took part this year.

##### **Bike the Bays with Wellington City Council**

With 1,525 participants this event was considered very successful with Mayor Kerry Prendergast and five other Wellington City Councillors taking part. The event was initially planned for 4 November 2007 as part of WCC's "Cycle into Summer" programme but was postponed to Saturday 23 February 2008 due to bad weather. This date change may have impacted on numbers as pre-event registrations were higher than the eventual number of participants.

##### **Bike the Trail with Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils**

The 1,853 participants in this event far exceeded expectations. Upper Hutt Mayor Wayne Guppy took part in the event which was held on Sunday 24 February 2008 on the Hutt River Trail, finishing at Hikoikoi Reserve in Petone.

#### 4.9 Pedestrian Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of Pedestrian Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 7**. Activity progress during the quarter includes:

##### 4.9.1 Regional Walking (Pedestrian) Plan review

A review of the Regional Walking Plan is underway. This plan identifies actions to implement the Regional Land Transport Strategy and will influence investment decisions and transport planning in relation to walking over the next 10 years. The review has involved development of a background issues paper and a stakeholder workshop to identify the current policy setting, trends and statistics, and key issues to be addressed. A second stakeholder workshop was held in February 2008 to develop a draft action programme for public consultation.

##### 4.10 Road Safety Plan Activities

Greater Wellington oversees the implementation of Road Safety Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 8**. Activity progress to note is:

##### **2008 "Share the road" Awareness Campaign**

This awareness campaign commenced the week of 18 February 2008 and ran for 10 weeks. The aim of the campaign was to educate drivers and cyclists about sharing the road. The goal was to raise drivers' awareness of the need to give cyclists a safe amount of space on the roads and to look for cyclists at intersections, when turning and opening vehicle doors. The campaign also highlighted to cyclists the need to obey the road rules, to be considerate to drivers when riding two abreast and to be visible both during the day and at night.

## 5. Communication

Communications regarding the projects mentioned in this report are the responsibility of the implementing agency.

## 6. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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Attachment 1: Reporting Methodology  
Attachment 2: Passenger Transport Project Status  
Attachment 3: Passenger Transport Activity Status  
Attachment 4: Roading Project Status  
Attachment 5: TDM Plan Action Status  
Attachment 6: Cycling Plan Action Status  
Attachment 7: Pedestrian Plan Action Status  
Attachment 8: Road Safety Plan Action Status