



Report 09.415
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Programme for RLTS Update

1. Purpose

This report sets out the proposed programme for the current review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) for the Committee's approval.

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 current RLTS 2007 – 2016 was adopted in July 2007 following a very comprehensive development process that took many years and was aligned with the development of the Wellington Regional Strategy. The RLTS sets out a long term vision of a sustainable transport system for the region and it contains objectives, policies, outcomes and targets to support progress towards achievement of that vision.

The Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) 2003¹ requires that the RLTS be renewed by July 2010 (s176 (1)(b)). The Act specifies a number of changes to the framework that guided the development of the current RLTS, the most significant being:

- the change of the planning horizon from 10 to at least 30 years; and
- the need to take into account new Government policy direction set via the New Zealand Transport Strategy 2008 and the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2009.

¹ As amended by the Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008.

4. Comment

4.1 Alignment with Government Policy

Recent work through the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) has shown that there is good alignment between current RLTS key outcomes and the more recent direction from Government. See Report **09.355**, Attachment 2 from the 23 June 2009 Committee meeting for details on this alignment.

4.2 Scope of Review

An examination of the impact assessments carried out as part of the 2006 RLTS process has found no issues that require a follow up study. Concerns about the effects of specific capital projects will be most appropriately dealt with in investigations and consultations on the projects. The impact assessments are considered robust enough to provide valuable insight into the issues affected by transport policy that the Wellington Region will have to face out to 2040.

GW officers will work with a Technical Working Group made up of officers from the local councils, the New Zealand Transport Agency and representatives of advocacy groups to formally review the policies of the current RLTS to confirm they are still valid out to 2040. This work will be conducted between August and December 2009.

Taking the above into account, the scope of this strategy renewal can be mostly limited to meeting the content requirements of the amended LTMA 2003, and extrapolating outcome targets across a longer timeframe.

4.3 Consultation

GW is required to follow a special consultative procedure under section 83 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 for the RLTS update. The LTMA 2003 also requires that GW take into account the need to provide early and full opportunities for persons and organisations to contribute to RLTS development (s76(f)).

Feedback from many consultations on the current RLTS, corridor plans, walking and cycling plans, and most recently the RLTP, consistently reports common themes around:

- Calls to be proactive in preparing for climate change/peak oil
- Calls to 'get on with' implementation
- Strong support for rail improvements
- Strong support for bus service improvements
- Strong support for safer cycling and walking infrastructure
- Strong support for road safety measures
- Mixed support for large roading capital projects
- A growing sense of consultation fatigue.

Given the messages of consultation fatigue, our good alignment with new New Zealand Transport Strategy, new Government Policy Statement on Transport Funding and the consequent limited scope of the review, the public consultation is not anticipated to be as far reaching as for the recent RLTS, corridor plan and RLTP processes. Instead, the consultation for the RLTS update will follow the normal LGA 2002 special consultative procedure, but is anticipated not include a mail-out to every household.

5. Key steps

The key steps and expected time frames for the RLTS update are shown in the following table.

Key Step	RTC decision	Timing
Process report to RTC (this report)	Agrees to the process	5 August 2009
Proposed RLTS	Adopt proposed RLTS for consultation	2 December 2009
Consultation Plan	Adopt consultation plan	2 December 2009
Hearing Subcommittee	Appoint Hearings Subcommittee	February 2010
Consultation Time		Feb – March 2010
Hear submissions (Hearings Subcommittee)		April 2010
Approval	Recommended from RTC to GW	June 2010

This process will have the new strategy adopted by July 2010 meeting the statutory requirement.

6. Communication

Greater Wellington's officers will engage with key stakeholders, primarily through the Technical Working Group, when developing the updated strategy.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Agrees to the process and timeframe set out in sections 4 and 5.***

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