



Report 11.51  
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Committee Regional Transport Committee  
Author Natasha Hayes, Senior Transport Planner

## Wellington Public Transport Spine Study

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the proposed scope of the Wellington Public Transport Spine Study, and to seek feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the study.

### 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 Ngauranga to Airport (N2A) Corridor Plan was adopted by the Regional Transport Committee in 2008. This multi-modal plan was developed by the NZ Transport Agency, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington. It was the culmination of about three years of studies, technical investigations and consultation.

The corridor plan sets out a package of measures over a ten year period and beyond. One of the measures identified in the N2A Corridor Plan is to: “undertake a feasibility study for a high quality public transport system, including light rail”.

The lead agency with responsibility for this project is Greater Wellington, with Wellington City Council and the NZ Transport Agency as partners.

The study is included in the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) as a Second Priority activity, commencing in 2011/12, with an indicative cost of \$1M. The RLTP also includes a subsequent ‘scheme assessment’ of the proposed high quality PT system. This is scheduled for ‘after 2013/14’ at an indicative cost of \$6M.

## **4. Terms of Reference**

The attached draft Terms of Reference (**Attachment 1**) has been developed by the study partners, Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council and NZ Transport Agency.

### **4.1 Purpose**

The aim of the study is to assess the feasibility of a high quality public transport system in the Ngauranga to Airport (N2A) Corridor, as specified in the N2A Corridor Plan.

At the conclusion of the study, we expect to have a comprehensive understanding of the feasibility of various options for delivering a high quality public transport system through the corridor - including the advantages, disadvantages, costs and benefits of options to allow robust political debate and to inform a long-term strategic decision as part of the next Ngauranga to Airport Corridor Plan review.

### **4.2 Scope**

The core focus of the study is the corridor between the Wellington Railway Station and the Wellington Regional Hospital in Newtown. However, the study will also need to consider any possible connections of the high quality public transport network to the rest of the transport network.

The study will assess the feasibility of different modal options to deliver a high quality public transport spine through the corridor including, but not limited to, light rail and bus-based options.

### **4.3 Timing**

The Terms of Reference set out indicative timing for the various phases of the study. This timing will be more accurately defined once the procurement process for the primary consultant to undertake the study is completed.

The tender requirements will seek completion of the study by the end of 2012, so that its conclusions will be available prior to the next local body elections.

### **4.4 Governance**

GWRC will lead the study and project-manage the agreed programme. Sign off and decision-making will rest with the three project partners, through the agreed governance mechanisms.

The study will be reported to the Regional Transport Committee. Relevant committees of Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council will also be kept fully informed as to progress with key study milestones.

A memorandum of understanding has been developed by the study partners to provide an agreed framework for working together.

## **4.5 Consultation**

Consultation with the community will be undertaken at several stages throughout the study. This includes feedback from key stakeholder groups, focus groups to test our understanding of the key factors that make public transport systems of high quality, and wider public consultation with the community once the options have been developed and assessed.

More detail on the consultation approaches proposed can be found in **Attachment 1**.

## **5. Feedback on the draft Terms of Reference**

### **5.1 Study Partners**

The study partners Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council and the NZ Transport Agency have worked together to develop the draft Terms of Reference for the study and are now in agreement on its content and that a funding application be submitted on that basis. However before finalising the Terms of Reference and submitting an application they are interested in the views of the Committee and key stakeholders.

### **5.2 Minister of Transport**

The Minister of Transport was provided a copy of the draft Terms of Reference document, and subsequently provided feedback in relation to the study scope. In his response he stated he would not support any changes to existing infrastructure (heavy rail) during the life of the recent improvements made as a result of significant investment decisions.

### **5.3 Stakeholders and interest groups**

Feedback has been invited from a number of key transport stakeholders and interest groups. The study partners will consider the feedback received and make any subsequent amendments to the Terms of Reference prior to finalising them.

## **6. Next steps**

Any feedback from this Committee will be taken into account when finalising the Terms of Reference for the study.

A funding application for the study is then expected to be submitted to the NZ Transport Agency in March. A consultant is expected to be appointed and the study commenced before the end of the current financial year.

## **7. Communication**

A communication strategy will be developed by the study partners to ensure communications in relation to the study are approached in a coordinated and consistent manner.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Supports the proposed Terms of Reference for the study as set out in Attachment 1.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Natasha Hayes**  
Senior Transport Planner

**Luke Troy**  
Manager, Corporate Planning

**Jane Davis**  
General Manager, Strategy &  
Community Engagement

**Attachment 1: Wellington Public Transport Spine Study – Terms of Reference**