



Report 11.525
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Committee Regional Transport
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Programme for the Western Corridor Plan refresh

1. Purpose

This report sets out the proposed programme for the refresh of the Western Corridor Plan.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter and recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance in terms of the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines.

This decision is to agree on a process that will result in an updated Western Corridor Plan for later adoption by the Committee.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Background

The current Western Corridor Plan was adopted in April 2006.

This corridor generally follows State Highway 1 north of Ngauranga and the North Island Main Trunk railway north of Kaiwharawhara. Connections to the adjacent corridors are included in the Hutt Corridor Plan and the Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan.

A refresh of the Western Corridor Plan was scheduled in the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) 2010 - 2040 to occur in 2010/11 but was delayed due to the need to obtain greater certainty around the timing of the Levin to Wellington Airport Road of National Significance (RoNS).

4. Scope

The Western Corridor Plan provides an overview for development of the strategic transport network within the corridor. This refresh is intended to be focused on updating the Corridor Plan's action programme with projects and activities that have already been consulted on and are therefore committed.

Extensive planning work and public consultation has already been undertaken on the RoNS projects and related improvements. A number of major public transport upgrades have also been completed (ie. double tracking to Waikanae).

The refreshed Plan will reflect any changes to legislation, Central Government policy direction, recent studies as well as committed projects.

The refresh process will include the development of a gap analysis report to identify any issues that have not, or are not intended to be, covered by other planning processes.

Modelling work utilising the Wellington Transport Strategic Model will analyse various scenarios in order to highlight any emerging issues for the wider transport network along the Western Corridor.

4.1 Technical working group

The Western Corridor Plan will be renewed with the assistance of a technical working group comprised of representatives from Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, New Zealand Transport Agency and KiwiRail.

The technical working group will agree on any new projects and activities for the draft Corridor Plan action programme resulting from the gap analysis, modelling work and public feedback.

4.2 Feedback

To reflect the recently completed consultation processes and significant existing commitments, a formal submission and hearing process is not proposed.

Instead it is proposed that the public be invited to provide feedback on a draft Plan which will then be considered by the Committee. This informal feedback will be supported by the creation of an online forum using Greater Wellington's "Have Your Say" site on Bang The Table.

The draft Plan will be accompanied by a media release and public notice inviting public feedback, and will also be placed on Greater Wellington's website.

The Regional Land Transport Programme and Long Term Plan consultation processes are scheduled to occur at the same time the draft Western Corridor Plan is expected to be ready. These more formal procedures allow for public submissions and hearings on the inclusion and timing of the major projects.

5. Key steps

The key steps and expected time frames for the Western Corridor Plan review are shown in the following table.

Key Step	Who	Timing
Process report to RTC (this report)	GW	27 October 2011
Gap analysis	GW officers / TWG	November – December
Develop action programme for draft Corridor Plan	GW officers / TWG	February
Approve draft Corridor Plan	RTC	March
Engagement and feedback		March – April
Amend draft Corridor Plan based on submissions	GW officers / TWG	May
Revised Western Corridor Plan for approval	RTC	June/July 2012

6. Communication

A media statement from the Chair of the Committee will be issued to announce the commencement of the refresh process.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Agrees** to commence a refresh of the Western Corridor Plan in accordance with the process and timeframe set out in sections 4 and 5.

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