

Report 12.258  
Date 7 June 2012  
File TP/03/27/01

Committee Regional Transport  
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## Draft Western Corridor Plan for approval

### 1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's agreement to release the draft Western Corridor Plan, set out in **Attachment 1**, for community feedback.

### 2. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002. Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

#### 2.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

The subject matter of this report is preliminary in nature and part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Committee making a decision of low significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.

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

### 3. Introduction

The Western Corridor generally follows State Highway 1 from the regional border north of Ōtaki to Ngauranga and the North Island Main Trunk railway to Kaiwharawhara. The main east-west connections are State Highway 58 and the interchange for State Highways 1 and 2 at Ngauranga.

The current Western Corridor Plan was adopted in April 2006. It is now due to be refreshed. The refresh seeks to:

- Ensure alignment with the strategic direction provided by the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010 – 2040.
- Take account of new identified projects, trends, information, issues, transport studies and land use policies relevant to this corridor.

#### 3.1 Policy framework for the Western Corridor Plan

Corridor plans are non-statutory documents used to identify and agree the needs, and associated major projects or activities to meet those needs, along the region's four main transport corridors. Multi-modal action programmes within corridor plans set out short to medium, and longer term measures to be progressed.

The Western Corridor Plan sits underneath the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) 2010-40 and contributes to the direction and desired outcomes provided by the strategy.

The vision of the Wellington RLTS is for *an integrated land transport system that supports the region's people and prosperity in a way that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable*.

The RLTS key outcomes are:

- Increased peak period passenger transport mode share
- Increased mode share for pedestrians and cyclists
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced severe road congestion
- Improved regional road safety
- Improved land use and transport integration
- Improved regional freight efficiency.

Regional plans for travel demand management, walking, cycling, road safety, and freight sit alongside corridor plans and provide supplementary detail about the measures to be progressed region-wide in relation to these areas.

The draft Plan is consistent with, and takes account of, the land use policy provided by the Proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS), the relevant District Plans, and the economic growth considerations provided by the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS).

The draft Plan has also been developed in the context of the Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport funding 2012, Safer Journeys 2020 and other relevant national level policy documents.

The timing of projects in this Corridor Plan reflects the current GPS with its emphasis on progressing the Roads of National Significance (RoNS) projects along State Highway 1, and the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 which has recently been consulted on.

The Wellington Regional Rail Plan is also presently being updated. It is through this process that the timing of major rail projects through the Western Corridor will be decided.

### **3.2 Refresh process**

This refresh has focused on updating the corridor plan's action programme with projects and activities that have already been consulted on and are committed. It also included the development of a gap analysis report, which sought to re-examine the issues along this corridor and identify any information gaps to be covered in future planning work. This work did not find any significant planning gaps.

The Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) and Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation processes have been recently completed. These formal processes included public submissions and hearings on the inclusion and timing of all the major projects put forward in the draft Western Corridor Plan.

Extensive planning work and public consultation has also already been undertaken or is underway on the RoNS projects and related improvements. Major public transport upgrades have been committed through the Wellington Rail Package.

The final Western Corridor Plan will be updated to take account of funding and timing decisions made in the final approved RLTP 2012-15 as well as the Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, and Kāpiti Coast District Council 2012-22 Long Term Plans.

To reflect these recently completed consultation processes and the significant number of existing commitments, it is not intended to hold a formal submission and hearing process.

## **4. Key changes to the corridor plan**

The draft Western Corridor Plan responds to the pressures and issues through the corridor by incorporating the following major projects and activities as part of a wider action programme:

- Wellington roads of national significance programme of capacity upgrades to State Highway 1
- Committed public transport works identified in the Regional Rail Package, as well as rollout of real time information systems through the corridor and investigation of electronic integrated ticketing

- Upgrading several stretches of the Regional Cycling Network through the corridor to shared path standards
- Road safety improvement works along SH1, including Otaihangā to Waikanae, as well as several road safety upgrades to SH58
- Investigations into better east-west connections via a new link road between Petone and Grenada as well as SH58.

## 5. Feedback process

The development of corridor plans must follow the general principles of consultation set out in Section 82 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002. However, the special consultative procedure under the LGA is not required to be followed for this process.

The public will be invited to provide feedback on the draft plan. Any comments and concerns will be taken into account when preparing the final plan. The public comments and a summary of key points from the feedback will be reported to the Committee along with the final version of the plan.

Target audiences are the affected communities, businesses, councils and implementing agencies within the Western Corridor.

### 5.1 Key messages

The key consultation messages for the draft Western Corridor Plan are:

- This is a refresh of the current Western Corridor Plan adopted in 2006
- The projects included in this draft plan are in the draft RLTP 2012-15
- The draft plan is one of several multi-modal plans identifying a package of improvement projects to implement the Regional Land Transport Strategy
- The draft plan has been developed collaboratively by Greater Wellington, NZ Transport Agency, KiwiRail, Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council
- The draft plan responds to and integrates with land use planning policy as set out in the Wellington Regional Strategy, the Regional Policy Statement and District Plans
- The draft plan includes projects and activities to address congestion hotspots, provide for freight and commuter movement, improve multi-modal accessibility and improve road safety
- The draft plan seeks to enhance the resilience of the transport network by providing better travel choice and improving network connectivity
- The timing of projects in the plan is indicative only, based on the RLTP 2012-15 prioritisation and funding process, as well as current advice from the relevant lead agency
- This is a high-level plan identifying issues and multi-modal improvement projects. More detailed studies and investigations will be carried out by the relevant lead agency to progress development of individual projects through the funding, design and construction stages.

## 5.2 Means to provide feedback

It is proposed to communicate the draft plan, inviting feedback, to the target audience and the regional community in the following ways:

- Media coverage – this will include a media release through community newspapers.
- Public notices – in the Dominion Post and some local community newspapers as appropriate.
- Greater Wellington website – dedicated web page including a copy of the draft plan and background gap analysis, together with a dedicated email address for receiving feedback. Links to this web page from other local council and NZTA websites.
- Greater Wellington officers will also make themselves available to talk with any interested parties or councils during the consultation period.

## 5.3 Public access to documents

The draft Western Corridor Plan will be available from:

- Greater Wellington's website (including links from local council and NZTA websites)
- Greater Wellington offices in Wellington

## 6. Timetable

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

Key Step	Who	Timing
Process report to RTC	GW	Approved
RLTP and LTP consultation		Completed
Complete gap analysis	GW officers / TWG	Completed
TWG issues and projects meeting	TWG	Held
Update action programme and draft Corridor Plan with final RLTP timings and TWG input	GW officers / TWG	Completed
Approve draft Corridor Plan (this report)	RTC	22 June 2012
Public feedback on draft Corridor Plan		July 2012
Amend draft Corridor Plan based on feedback	GW officers / TWG	July – August 2012
Revised Western Corridor Plan for approval	RTC	15 August 2012

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Agrees** to release the Draft Western Corridor Plan, as set out in **Attachment 1**, for public feedback as set out in this report; and
4. **Delegates** to the Chair of the Regional Transport Committee authority to approve any final amendments to the draft Plan resulting from this Committee meeting.
5. **Notes** officers will provide copies and a summary of the feedback received on the draft Plan to the Committee in August 2012.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Draft Western Corridor Plan – June 2012