

Report 13.682
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Committee Council
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Report on Regional Transport Committee 19 June 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Regional Transport Committee meeting of 19 June 2013.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Reports

3.1 Public Transport Spine Study – Final Report

The Committee discussed the final report of the Public Transport Spine Study. The Study included assessment of over 80 options, with three shortlisted options having been assessed in detail. These are:

- Bus Priority, which involves enhancing the current public transport system,
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which features dedicated bus lanes for new, high capacity articulated or double decker vehicles along with various other system improvements, and
- Light Rail Transit (LRT), which features dedicated lanes and tracks for new tram vehicles, as well as interchanges to transfer from buses.

The Committee discussed the ability of transport vehicles to travel beyond the designated corridor, which contributed to the benefits of that system identified in the study.

The Committee acknowledged that a high quality, high frequency public transport spine is essential for the improvement of Wellington region's public transport network, and would have huge benefits for the Wellington Region.

The Committee endorsed bus rapid transit as its preferred option. A public consultation process will now be led by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), Wellington City Council and New Zealand Transport Agency.

The Committee thanked officers for their work on the Public Transport Spine Study.

3.2 Active a2b Final Report 2013

The Committee discussed the Active a2b programme, which was delivered in 2013 by GWRC's Sustainable Transport team for the fourth consecutive summer.

The Committee noted that the programme has attracted between 1100 and 1200 new participants each year. While there was concern by the Sustainable Transport team that being in its fourth year of delivery, Active a2b may have lost its appeal, this year's numbers of participants matched those of 2012. The Committee acknowledged that these were positive figures which showed that Active a2b is continuing to encourage people to utilise more active modes of transport.

3.3 School Travel Plan Final Report 2009-12

The Committee discussed the School Travel Plan (STP) Final Report 2009-12. The STP programme is a joint partnership between schools, local councils and GWRC, which supports school communities in developing and implementing action plans that improve road safety and promote active and sustainable transport to and from school.

The Committee discussed the results for regional level participation in the STP programme. It was noted that ideally, if every school in the region participated in the STP programme it would have a positive outcome on traffic congestion due to a decrease in parents driving their children to school.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Fran Wilde
Chair