



Report 13.756
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Committee Regional Transport Committee
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Establishment of a Hearing Subcommittee for the Wellington City Public Transport Spine options

1. Purpose

To establish a subcommittee of the Regional Transport Committee to hear, consider and report on submissions to the Wellington City Public Transport Spine options.

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

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

3. Background

3.1 Wellington Public Transport Spine Study

The Wellington Public Transport Spine Study (PTSS) was completed in June 2013. The study was a key action from the Ngauranga to Airport Corridor Plan and was undertaken to help determine a future high quality public transport solution for Wellington City. The study was commissioned jointly by Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and the NZ Transport Agency.

The PTSS investigated the feasibility of a large number of different public transport options and progressively narrowed these down to three shortlisted

options – Bus Priority, Bus Rapid Transit, and Light Rail Transit. After considering the study outcomes at its meeting on 19 June 2013, the Regional Transport Committee identified Bus Rapid Transit as its preferred option and agreed to consult with the community on the options.

3.2 Consultation

Consultation on the Wellington City Future Public Transport Spine Options commenced on the 24 July and will run through until 30 September.

All people making submissions will be offered the opportunity to be heard in support of their submission.

4. Comment

4.1 Need to Establish a Hearings Subcommittee

Hearings subcommittees are an efficient option for hearing a number of submitters and considering submissions in some detail. A subcommittee will allow hearing dates and times to be easily tailored to suit submitters and ensure quorum is achieved throughout the hearings. A large number of submissions are expected for this consultation process, 110 have been received to date with 13 wishing to be heard. A further influx of submissions is expected within the final week of consultation, with a significant proportion of those likely to request to be heard. Therefore a hearings subcommittee is considered appropriate.

The hearing and consideration of submissions are currently scheduled to take place over three days the week commencing 2nd of December 2013.

4.2 Terms of Reference

The recommended Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee are in **Attachment 1**.

4.2.1 Scope of the Subcommittee's Role

It is recommended that the subcommittee be established to hear, evaluate and report on submissions, and make recommendations to the full Regional Transport Committee.

The subcommittee will have the opportunity to ask questions of those submitters who present their submissions orally and have matters clarified where necessary. The subcommittee will also spend some time discussing the submissions and deliberating on the matters raised. This will give it the ability to consider the submissions in some depth.

It is expected that the subcommittee's recommendations will then be considered by the full Committee in December.

4.2.2 Subcommittee Membership

All members of the Committee are eligible for appointment to a hearings subcommittee. It is noted that the former 'objective representatives' are no longer members of the Committee following recent changes to the Land Transport Management Act 2003. The former objective representatives have been temporarily appointed as 'advisors' to the Regional Transport Committee for this September meeting. This will be reviewed by the new council following the local body elections. Objective advisors appointed to the Regional Transport Committee have full speaking rights, but no voting entitlement on any matter.

It is consistent with best practice and the requirements of the Local Government Act that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions. The only constraint, therefore, is the availability on the day of hearings and deliberations.

It is recommended that three people be appointed to the subcommittee. Those members of the Committee not appointed to the subcommittee are welcome to attend the hearings.

As well as subcommittee members, a chair will need to be appointed.

As the Wellington City Public Transport Spine preferred option will be focused on central Wellington, with links and integration to the wider regional public transport network, it is recommended representatives from Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council be appointed to the Hearings Subcommittee. It is also recommended that the NZ Transport Agency be represented as co-investor in public transport and state highway manager. It is the usual practice of the RTC to include on subcommittees the Committee Chair.

It is therefore recommended that the following members be appointed:

- The Chair of the Regional Transport Committee (GWRC)
- The Wellington City Council Mayor
- The NZ Transport Agency Regional Director

Specific appointees to represent local authorities will be dependent on the outcomes of the local body elections in October, therefore only the relevant position is identified.

It is also recommended that the Regional Transport Committee chair be appointed as the subcommittee chair.

4.2.3 Quorum and Standing Orders

The Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders will apply to the subcommittee. This is provided for in the attached Terms of Reference.

When deciding on a quorum it is important to consider the risks that illness or other unanticipated commitments may prevent a committee member from attending part of the hearings.

To minimise inconvenience to submitters as a result of needing to reschedule the hearings, a quorum of two members is recommended.

5. Communication

There is nothing to communicate as a result of consideration of this report.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Resolves*** to establish a subcommittee to hear, evaluate and report on submissions to the Wellington City Public Transport Spine Options and make recommendations to the Regional Transport Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference in ***Attachment 1***.
4. ***Resolves*** to appoint the following three Committee members to the Wellington City Public Transport Spine Options Hearing Subcommittee:
 - *The Chair of the Regional Transport Committee, as Subcommittee Chair.*
 - *The Mayor of Wellington City Council*
 - *The NZ Transport Agency Regional Director*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for the Wellington City Public Transport Options Hearing Subcommittee