

Report 16.241
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Committee Council
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Report on the Regional Transport Committee meeting, 24 May 2016

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Regional Transport Committee (the Committee) meeting of 24 May 2016.

2. Reports

2.1 N2A programme update

Jim Bentley, Programme Director, N2A Programme, gave an update to the Committee.

The six month period of public engagement has just closed and data will be analysed to develop guiding urban design and transport principles that will be presented to the N2A Governance Group and subsequently to the individual councils.

2.2 Autonomous Vehicles

Jim Bentley, Director, Centre for Infrastructure Research, Auckland University, gave an update to the Committee

The Committee was informed that the report is currently a ‘think-piece’ based on current desktop research to gauge the potential impact of autonomous vehicles on the transport network. The Committee was informed that electric vehicles are separate and not directly connected with autonomous vehicles and are likely to impact in the shorter-term through increased vehicle kilometres travelled as a result of cheaper fuel. The impact of autonomous vehicles will occur in the longer-term and is uncertain.

Some research reports predict significantly increased congestion that would make mass rapid transit solutions more necessary, other commentators see the opposite trend with significantly greater efficiency in use of the road network, coupled with changing travel patterns and vehicles ownership resulting in a reduced need for mass transit solutions. Therefore, the research is not conclusive on this point.

The general advice was that an uptake of 50 per cent autonomous vehicles could equal 23 percent more efficient use of the road, but that this point is not expected until at least 2055.

2.3 Introducing Transdev

Niclas Flodin, Managing Director and Alan Bannister, Chief Operating Officer, Transdev Wellington, and Hyunsam Shin, Fleet and Maintenance Manager, Hyundai Rotem, gave a presentation introducing Transdev Wellington.

Transdev Wellington informed the Committee that their commencement as the new rail operator is on track and they will run their first service on 3 July 2016. Transdev have a nine year contract with a possible six year extension. The major focus for Transdev is customer safety and satisfaction, while at the same time improving the business' knowledge and expertise for the greater good of the industry. They have significant plans to improve the quality of the services for customers.

2.4 NZTA projects update

Raewyn Bleakley, Regional Director Central, NZTA, gave an update and handout to the Committee about the current NZTA projects that affect the Wellington region.

The Committee was informed that the Mount Victoria Tunnel refurbishment will be completed by mid-2016. Transmission Gully is underway, with a projected completion date of 2020. The issue of congestion at Tawa was raised and NZTA is to provide a project update at the next Committee meeting.

2.5 Report back from working party on cycling pinch points between Petone and Melling

Raewyn Bleakley, Regional Director Central, NZTA, gave an update to the Committee.

The technical specifications for design safety at the Dowse interchange will be discussed at the next Working Group meeting on 27 May 2016. This will be reported back to the next Committee meeting. There is a need to balance the user groups needs and expectations with best practice and ensure consistency between projects.

2.6 Regional transport resilience programme business case

Mark Edwards, Senior Transport Planner, Greater Wellington Regional Council, gave an update to the Committee

The Committee was informed that the Regional Transport Resilience business case is designed to raise the profile of resilience planning in the Greater Wellington Region. A regional resilience risk register will be developed, that prioritises regional risks, using existing data sets and risk registers from the councils, NZTA and Kiwirail. This will be used to feed into a regional utilities and transport business case as well as the review of the Regional Land Transport Plan in 2018.

2.7 One Network Road Classification

Steven Finlay, Manager Business Solutions, EquiP Limited Partnership, Local Government NZ, gave an update to the committee.

The Committee heard that road classification is a tool to assist councils in prioritising investments in road maintenance. The road network should be viewed as a service rather than an asset. It is necessary to classify roads of strategic significance. Ideally the business case will be signed off by councils in 2017.

3. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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Report approved by:

Cr Paul Swain
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Committee