



Report 09.210  
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Committee Council  
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## Report on the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 8 April 2009

### 1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Transport Committee that took place on 8 April 2009.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Report

#### 3.1 Public Participation

Chris Horne spoke to the committee about the Western, Hutt, and Ngauranga-airport corridors.

Councillor spoke on cyclist and pedestrian road safety and provided the committee with an example from the Netherlands of an alternative approach to safety. In the Dutch example the following street code applies:

- Drivers must always yield to both pedestrians and cyclists
- Cyclists must always yield to pedestrians and follow relevant traffic laws
- Pedestrians must follow relevant traffic laws.

#### 3.2 Regional Road Safety Update

Joe Hewitt, Manager Transport Strategy Development, presented a detailed report on road safety statistics in the region. Officers recently investigated crash data in the region and found:

- Fatal and serious crashes have increased well above the rates of travel and population, indicating that the region's road safety is getting worse.
- Alcohol related crashes declined markedly during the 1990s but have remained steady for much of the last decade.
- The average age of the vehicle fleet has risen steadily to over 12 years of age, meaning that adoption of safer vehicle technologies is relatively slow.
- Alcohol and speed remain very significant factors in fatal and serious crashes, particularly involving males up to 49 years of age.
- A recent increase in the use of motorcycles correlates to a similar rise in fatal and serious crashes involving motorcyclists.
- The number of fatal and serious crashes involving cyclists in 2007 was a record high.

The committee agreed that the “business as usual” approach to road safety is not working effectively and that a new approach is needed. It asked officers to review the region's current Road Safety Plan. It also asked officers to formulate central government policy initiatives that might lead to a reduction in the crash statistics, including blood alcohol levels, compulsory defensive driver training and probationary licences.

#### **4. Briefing on key state highway projects**

The NZ Transport Agency updated the committee on the various state highway projects that are underway or being planned in the region. The committee highlighted the need to manage consultation on projects to avoid “consultation fatigue” by the community.

#### **5. Establishment of a Hearing Subcommittee**

The committee agreed to establish a hearings subcommittee to consider submissions on the Proposed Regional Land Transport Programme. On the sub-committee are Councillor Wilde (Chair), Mayors Brash and Guppy, and Dr Hume from the NZ Transport Agency. Other committee members were advised that they would be welcome to attend all or some of the hearings.

#### **6. OnTrack update presentation**

David Gordon made a presentation to the committee on the work currently underway by OnTrack to make the network ready for the new trains. The presentation was very well received by the committee.

#### **7. Unconfirmed Minutes**

The unconfirmed minutes of the committee meeting are in **Attachment 1**.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Public Minutes**