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Committee Regional Transport
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Agency Progress Report on implementing the Regional Land Transport Strategy

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress in implementing the projects, activities and action programmes of the Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-2012.

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. Background

The Committee is required by the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (amended in 2008) to provide a 3 yearly report on implementing the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007-2016 (RLTS). As agreed to by the Committee, the annual monitoring process will be maintained to ensure up-to-date information is available for related policy development work. The Annual Monitoring Report documents implementation progress as well as some 100 indicators to gauge progress towards achieving the objectives of the strategy.

This **quarterly report** focuses on agency progress towards implementing the projects, activities and action programmes of the Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-2012 that supports the RLTS 2007-2016, as reported by the lead agencies. Progress is reported for the quarter to **31 December 2009**.

A comprehensive reporting methodology has been developed to update the Committee on the overall progress of all regional projects, activities and implementation plan action programmes (**Attachment 1**). Detailed progress including commencement and completion dates is given. Descriptions of all passenger transport programme projects and activities, strategic roading programme projects and implementation plan action programmes (travel

demand management, cycling, walking and road safety) are included in the associated attachments.

This report relies on information provided by a number of agencies and can only be as good as the updated feedback received from those agencies.

4. Progress

The following provides a brief summary of the highlights during the second quarter of the 2009/10 financial year.

4.1 Passenger transport projects

Greater Wellington (GW) is the lead agency for all passenger transport projects. See **Attachment 2** for detailed progress. Highlights this quarter are:

4.1.1 Matangi rolling stock – new Electric Multiple Units (EMU) procurement

Work continues both in Korea and Wellington to build and prepare for the arrival of the new trains mid 2010. The train design is now complete and 10 cars have begun the production process.

Work has begun in earnest on the redevelopment of the Thorndon depot to suit the Matangi trains. A new train wash has been delivered and new wheel lathe and train wash buildings are under construction. Wheel lathe manufacture in Germany is continuing.

A draft new timetable is under development to enable the introduction of Matangi trains line-by-line and extend services to Waikanae.

4.1.2 Ganz Mavag detailed condition assessment and prototype

In December 2009 KiwiRail submitted to GW the Prototype Refurbishment detailed design and construction proposal for its review and approval. GW is anticipating providing KiwiRail with formal feedback on the proposal in early February 2010.

4.1.3 Real time information

The contract for the Real Time Passenger Information system was awarded to ACIS Ltd. Planning and design work continues, and preparation for the pilot phase, due to start in March, is well under way. The on-bus and on-street installations will begin in July 2010. The system should be operational in Wellington city in late 2010.

4.1.4 Integrated ticketing

The investigation of options for the development of GW's network-wide integrated ticketing aspirations remains low key pending developments with the implementation of the Auckland system, and the New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) plans for a national system.

The NZTA has agreed to establish a national ticketing programme for public transport in New Zealand, and has recently approved funding for the development of Auckland's integrated ticketing project as a first step. NZTA is planning further discussions with regional councils later this year.

4.2 Passenger transport activities

GW is also the lead agency for all passenger transport activities (these are listed in **Attachment 3**). Relevant points to note for the quarter:

4.2.1 Trolley bus replacement programme

At the end of September 2009 the full complement of 60 new generation trolley buses had been delivered and commissioned for use on the road.

The new trolley buses have not been without their problems but these are being progressively fixed through a works program that was completed at the end of December 2009. Extra diesel buses were required during this period.

4.2.2 Rail station upgrades

Simla Crescent, Ngaio, Crofton Downs and Petone Stations have been completed. The platform frontages at Pukerua Bay are complete and drainage and platform surface work is underway.

Tenders for work on the canopies on platforms 1 and 2 at Wellington Station and for work at Redwood Station have been awarded.

4.2.3 Kapiti stations

All consents have been lodged for station construction and land subdivision. Tenders will be released early in 2010. Agreements have been signed by land owners pending GW approval for the lease of land adjacent to Waikanae Station for extending the park and ride.

4.2.4 Regional Rail Funding

Further work on rail activities within the Regional Rail Plan will await the finalisation of recently announced changes to the funding of transport infrastructure. Discussions are continuing with the Ministry of Transport.

4.3 KiwiRail update

KiwiRail is the lead agency for several passenger transport projects. See **Attachment 2** for detailed progress. The highlights for this quarter are:

4.3.1 Kaiwharawhara Throat (Wellington Station Entry)

All the lead in work for the Christmas block of line (BOL) was completed on time. Most of the works programmed over the BOL were completed and the system was handed back to the operator on schedule.

4.3.2 MacKay's to Waikanae double tracking (and electrification to Waikanae)

All traction poles for existing track between MacKay's Crossing and Paraparaumu have been completed. The first sections of track and traction wire have been installed. Work on two bridges is complete.

4.3.3 Traction system upgrades

Good progress has been made on the installation of equipment across numerous sites with some increased activity during the Christmas BOL.

4.3.4 Signals system upgrades

Satisfactory progress was made during the Christmas BOL with the installation and commissioning of track circuits.

4.4 Roading projects

The NZTA is the lead agency for most of the strategic roading projects identified in the RLTS. See **Attachment 4** for detailed progress. Key decisions on the route for the Wellington Road of National Significance (RoNS) were announced by the NZTA Board on 15 December 2009. Progress to note on strategic roading projects include:

4.4.1 Transmission Gully (Western Corridor, RoNS)

The NZTA Board announced in December 2009 to progress Transmission Gully rather than the Coastal Highway Upgrade as part of the Wellington Northern Corridor. Progress continues to be made on gathering information for the future lodging of regulatory consents and the current Phase 2 is on track to be completed in late 2010.

4.4.2 Kapiti Expressway (Western Corridor, RoNS)

The NZTA Board announced, in December 2009, the Sandhills (Western Link) route is the preferred option for the Kapiti Expressway route. A detailed design process will now be undertaken to develop details of the route.

4.4.3 Dowse to Petone grade separation (Hutt Corridor)

Practical completion was given on the 3 December 2009. Minor finishing works are expected to be complete by Easter 2010.

4.4.4 Melling to Haywards upgrade (Hutt Corridor)

Consultants have been engaged and have commenced investigations into proposed improvements to the stretch of SH2 between just south of Melling Bridge and just south of the Haywards Interchange. Modelling work has been undertaken and results are due back soon.

4.4.5 Muldoon's Corner (Wairarapa Corridor)

Work is progressing slowly due to poor weather but overall progress is on track.

4.4.6 Basin Reserve project (Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor, RoNS)

Work on developing options for the traffic improvements around the Basin Reserve is continuing and will be completed in late February 2010 when public consultation will be undertaken for six weeks. NZTA is working in partnership with GW, Wellington City Council (WCC) and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage on the project

4.4.7 Ngauranga Triangle study

The draft report is now complete and will be released for Stage 2 stakeholder discussions, commencing January 2010.

4.4.8 Safety improvements

MacKay's to Centennial Highway safety improvements

The investigation of the first section (Mackay's to Paekakariki) is now complete and the project included in 2009-12 three year programme. The preferred option approved by NZTA has been briefed to KCDC and approved by the Paekakariki Community Board. Funding for the design has been approved and design commenced December 2009.

Investigation of the second section (Paekakariki to Centennial Highway) is well underway, and consultation on options (shoulder width/walking and cycling facilities) will start early 2010.

Otaihanga to Waikanae safety improvements

Investigation complete, except for final consultation with KCDC and Waikanae Community Board in early 2010. Funding is included in 2009-12 three year programme. The preferred option includes u-turn facilities at Otaihanga Rd and Kebbell Drive (both just off SH1). Tendering for the design/construction supervision phases is underway.

Moonshine Hill Road to Silverstream safety improvements

The design work conducted by Opus is nearing completion. The designation package has been lodged and resource consent applications to follow.

Moonshine Road to Fergusson Drive safety improvements

The investigation into a median barrier between Whakatiki St and Brown Owl (end of Fergusson Drive) is underway.

Johnsonville to Tawa street lighting

Investigation is now complete. The preferred option (light columns along the roadside) has been approved. A Professional Services contract was awarded to MWH in December 2009. Physical works are expected to be advertised in June 2010.

Forest Lakes safety improvements

Tenders for professional services are underway. Evaluation and contract award is expected early February 2010.

4.4.9 Western Link Road (Western Corridor)

Kapiti Coast District Council is the lead agency on the Western Link Road project.

The NZTA Board has decided to construct the new Expressway down the Western Link corridor. The Western Link Road project is “on-hold” pending NZTA successfully securing statutory consents and commencing construction of the Expressway.

4.5 Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plan activities

GW oversees the implementation of TDM Plan Activities which are detailed in **Attachment 5**. This is the first report on the new TDM Plan, adopted in October 2009. The status of some TDM actions is given below:

4.5.1 Encourage sustainable and efficient travel choices

School travel plan programme

At present, the programme has 29 schools enrolled, exceeding the 2009/10 target of 26 schools. The numbers of school children exposed to sustainable travel to school initiatives through these travel plans exceeds 8,600 primary and secondary students.

Workplace and Business Travel Tool Box

Let's Carpool, the regional carpool programme offers a comprehensive carpool matching website with marketing tools and additional support for employers to set up workplace based carpool schemes. The programme was developed in cooperation with NZTA and territorial authorities.

At the end of December over 920 individuals and 24 businesses had registered with the programme. The target for the programme is 1000 registrants by June 2010.

Travel Awareness Programme

A travel awareness programme is underway, with on-going communications to raise awareness in the community of active and sustainable transport options. Tools include the carpool programme, cycling and walking journey planner, public transport promotions as well as alternatives to travel such as tele-working.

4.6 Cycling Plan activities

GW oversees the implementation of the Cycling Plan activities detailed in **Attachment 6**. Activity progress to note is:

4.6.1 Cycling and Walking Journey Planner

The regional web-based cycling and walking journey planner attracted over 10,800 visits since the September launch. The journey planner facilitates and encourages cycling and walking for commuter trips and has been developed in co-operation with all local authorities. The planner provides directions, time and distance measurements, maps to requested destinations with features such as elevation, weather and a calorie counter. User feedback is now leading to refinement of the site's many road and track data layers.

Promotion of the planner included a competition in October and November open to schools in the region who have registered for *Feet First Walk to School Every Week*, to plan the journey to school.

In addition, throughout summer a competition, open to all residents of the region, invites participants to share their favourite journey details and win prizes to high interest destinations.

4.6.2 Active Transport Forum

The Active Transport Forum held their fourth quarter meeting in November, featuring Philip Darnton from Cycling England as the guest speaker. The forum members developed a set of criteria for the regional strategic walking network and will work towards developing a strategic walking network map for the region.

4.6.3 Share the Road Campaign

Investigation continues into a revitalised campaign that promotes safe overtaking by motorists, and safer cycling habits.

Massey University students are working with GW on a design brief for a revitalised Share the Road campaign that promotes safe overtaking by motorists, and safer cycling habits.

4.7 Walking Plan activities

GW oversees the implementation of the Walking Plan activities detailed in **Attachment 7**. Activity progress during the quarter includes:

4.7.1 Promoting wider benefits of walking

Forty-six schools in the Greater Wellington area have signed up to *Feet First Walk to School Every Week*. This is a new curriculum-supported resource for schools with supplementary material for parents and students. The aim is to create a culture of walking to school as an everyday activity.

A new sustainable transport initiative, Active a2b, has been developed as a means of reducing congestion in Wellington city. Promoting walking and cycling for the journey to work, it will be available through workplaces in Wellington CBD in January 2010.

4.8 Road Safety Plan activities

GW oversees the implementation of Road Safety Plan activities which are detailed in **Attachment 8**. This is the first report on the new Road Safety Plan, adopted in October 2009.

The Road Safety Technical Working Group agreed on areas for advocacy to Central Government which were approved by the Regional Transport Committee. GW officers completed submissions to the Ministry of Transport for the development of the new national Road Safety Strategy to 2020.

GW officers contributed to Road Safety Action Plan meetings in Wellington, Hutt City and Wairarapa, and the development of Wellington's pedestrian safety campaign.

Massey University students are working with GW on a design brief for a revitalised Share the Road campaign that promotes safe overtaking by motorists, and safer cycling habits.

5. Communication

Communications regarding the projects mentioned in this report are the responsibility of the implementing agencies.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Agency Progress Reporting Methodology

Attachment 2: Passenger Transport Projects

Attachment 3: Passenger Transport Activities

Attachment 4: Roading Projects

Attachment 5: TDM Strategy Activities

Attachment 6: Cycling Plan Activities

Attachment 7: Walking Plan Activities

Attachment 8: Road Safety Plan Activities