

Report 15.183
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Committee Council
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Report on the Regional Transport Committee meeting, 28 April 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Regional Transport Committee (the Committee) meeting of 28 April 2015.

2. Public presentation

Bruce Flett gave a presentation and Helene Ritchie, Rob Suisted, Richard Brown, Tamara Duran and Stephen Mulholland all spoke to item 6 on the agenda – Proposed Petone to Grenada Link Road: Options north of Tawa.

3. Reports

3.1 Proposed Petone to Grenada Link Road: Options north of Tawa

The Committee discussed the technical details of the north of Tawa roading options, linking to the proposed Petone to Grenada Road (P2G Road). More information on these options had been sought by the Committee at its previous meeting on 9 March 2015.

The options currently being considered by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) are:

- Option C: Widen State Highway 1 (SH1) between Tawa and the Transmission Gully Interchange by adding two additional lanes (a total of six lanes).
- Option D: Construct a new Takapu Link through Takapu Valley joining to Transmission Gully Motorway. This would be a two lane road.
- Option Wait and See: No construction of any additional north-south capacity. Monitoring would be undertaken after the construction of the P2G Link Road to check actual traffic flows and congestion levels and to determine if a longer-term response was required.

The Committee noted that their role in the process is to recommend a preferred option to NZTA, who would make the final decision. The Committee was advised that NZTA will be looking at all of the available options.

The Committee agreed that Option C, the widening of State Highway 1, was its preferred option. It also rejected the Takapu Valley Road as an appropriate option.

The Committee noted that, in addition to its decision on a preferred option, each individual council has the opportunity to submit separately to NZTA on the matter.

3.2 Recommendations of the Regional Land Transport Plan Hearing Subcommittee and recommended final Regional Land Transport Plan 2015

The Committee discussed the recommendations of the Regional Land Transport Plan Hearing Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) and the recommended final Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 (RLTP).

Following the hearing of oral submissions by the Subcommittee on 9 and 10 March 2015 the Subcommittee made a number of changes to the draft RLTP, including amending the list of significant activities to elevate the 'Wellington to Hutt Valley cycleway/walkway and resilience project' to Rank 5. The Committee noted that this project was beneficial both for encouraging cycling in the region and improving network resilience.

The Committee discussed the consultation process and noted that 69% of submissions on the RLTP came from within the Wellington City Council area. The Committee discussed potential strategies for encouraging a greater number of residents in the other parts of the region to submit on region-wide transport plans in the future, including more clarification in the consultation material about how the plans relate to these areas.

The Committee also discussed the Census data pertaining to the number of people travelling to work by active modes. It was noted that a potential way to increase these trends is to encourage the use of active modes for children travelling to school, which is included as a 2025 target in the draft RLTP, as this behaviour would likely continue when the children grow up and enter the workforce. The Committee noted that, especially in rural areas where there are school-run bus services, local authorities will need to work with the schools in their area to encourage children to travel by active mode.

It was also noted that Porirua City Council and Hutt City Council are preparing cycling strategies to increase the number of cycle to work trips in their areas.

The Committee commended the work of officers who worked on the RLTP and thanked the members of the Subcommittee for their role in developing it. The Committee also thanked all those who made submissions on the RLTP.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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Report approved by:

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Committee