

Report 16.512
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Committee Regional Transport Committee
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Progress report on projects in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the current status and progress in relation to the large new projects included and prioritised in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 and any other progress of note.

2. Background

The Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 (RLTP) is a statutory document developed under the Land Transport Management Act 2003. It sets out the policy framework for development of the region's transport network over the next 10-30 years. The RLTP also contains all the land transport activities proposed to be undertaken over six financial years, and the regional priority of significant activities (costing >\$5m).

The activities in the RLTP are submitted by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) and 'Approved Organisations' (including the eight territorial authorities and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)).

3. Monitoring the RLTP

A description of how monitoring is undertaken to assess implementation of the RLTP is set out in Appendix A of the Plan. The key monitoring elements are:

- Projects – a half yearly report on the status of significant projects and other projects of regional interest
- Outcomes/targets – an annual report on progress against outcomes and targets (full report every three years, summary report in intervening years)

This report fulfils the first of the two monitoring elements above and focuses on project progress over the past six months. The last progress report was presented to the Regional Transport Committee on 16 August 2016 (Report 16.348).

4. Comment

The progress detailed in sections 4.4 to 4.6 of this report is for projects and activities that commenced in 2015/16. These updates have been provided by officers from councils and the NZ Transport Agency.

4.1 Recent events

Over the past six months, notable highlights in relation to the regional transport issues, projects, planning and funding include:

- The regional road and rail network experienced extensive disruption after the earthquake on 14 November and the subsequent storm flooding. The state highways, bus, and rail networks within the Wellington region were all largely back in service within a few days of these events. Some sections of local roads remain closed due to damage to adjacent buildings. This has required diversions to a few bus routes, but overall the Wellington regional transport network has coped well with these events.
- All 83 Matangi 2-car train units have now entered service, marking the completion of the rail modernisation project. To celebrate this milestone, free rail travel across the region was offered on 30 October 2016. ‘Ride for Free’ Sunday saw 52,000 trips on all Metlink trains, a significantly higher level of patronage than expected. By way of comparison, an average weekday sees an all-day total of about 40,000 trips made on Metlink trains.
- The Port Access and SH2 Programme Business Cases have been completed. The Board has supported these business cases but decisions regarding programming have yet to be made due to the recent Kaikoura earthquake on 14 November.
- The Regional Transport Resilience Programme Business Case is nearing completion. The main output from this is a prioritised list of vulnerable and critical locations across the region’s transport network. This will be used to inform the planning and development of resilience projects across the region. The endorsement of this list is to be considered by RTC at its December 2016 meeting (Report 16.509).

4.1.1 Let’s Get Wellington Moving / Ngauranga to Airport

The Let’s Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) programme is a major collaborative planning process involving three agencies – NZTA, Wellington City Council and GWRC. The focus of this programme is the area from Ngauranga Gorge to the Airport, encompassing the Wellington Urban Motorway and connections to Wellington Hospital and eastern and southern suburbs.

The last six months have seen a significant build-up of momentum within the programme. The analysis of the data collected in March has provided more clarity on the problems that the LGWM programme aims to address, enabling a set of project objectives and outcomes to be agreed. This in turn has led to the development of evaluation criteria and a methodology for Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA).

A long list of scenarios (packages of interventions/measures/initiatives) has been developed and MCA assessment is underway to select a short list. A number of the decision support tools (including the mesoscopic transport model and Network Operating Framework) have been developed and will be used to assess the short list scenarios.

An interim report on the project is being prepared and will be released early in 2017, with a view to public engagement on the short list scenarios occurring around March. The scenario development and assessment process will also be tested with stakeholders through focus groups in early 2017.

4.2 Variations to the RLTP 2015

No variations to the RLTP have been received in the past six months.

4.3 Project and activity category types

The updates on the projects and activities in the following sections are organised by their categorisation in the RLTP programme for 2015 to 2021. These categories are:

- Non prioritised – new projects and activities that cost less than \$5 million
- Committed – projects and activities continuing on from the 2012-15 funding period
- Significant – projects and activities that cost more than \$5 million and need to be prioritised against the RLTP strategic objectives.

Projects and activities that are fully funded without any co-funding contributions from NZTA do not need to be included in the RLTP programme, and therefore may not be included in this report.

4.4 Progress in relation to non-prioritised programmes/activities

Over the past six months, the following notable progress has been made in relation to non-prioritised activities in the RLTP programme.

Activity type	Progress comments
LED lighting programmes	Several councils will be starting to implement LED lighting programmes next year and the year after. NZTA will start a national business case next year for the state highways and lights are currently being replaced in areas where other road improvement work is occurring. Upper Hutt and Porirua are continuing ongoing programmes.

<p>Road safety promotion</p>	<p>All councils and NZTA are conducting ongoing programmes of work with partner agencies and communities to address the high and medium risks in the region - speed, alcohol and drugs, fatigue, young drivers, motorcycles, intersections, cycling and walking. Example campaigns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Glow Wear – a design competition and runway show to raise awareness of the need for using reflective materials in the early morning and evening hours • An ‘indicate intent’ campaign at intersections • Radio adverts for motorcycles safety ‘All the gear, all the time’ and the Ride Forever training programmes. • Alcohol education emphasising the new 250 microgram limit • Car Fit programme for older drivers • Continuing bus bike safety workshops • Pedal Ready cycle skills were provided at 20 schools
<p>Local minor roading projects</p>	<p>The Johnsonville Triangle improvements are complete. In Wairarapa, the Kokatau/Millars Rd intersection improvements and Manawa No3 Bridge renewal are complete.</p> <p>There are also a number of pedestrian crossings and safety improvements now complete in Kapiti. A new roundabout at Hillcrest Road/Raumati Road and works to Weka Road are planned to start during the summer school holidays.</p> <p>In South Wairarapa, works are ongoing on Cape Palliser Road. The earthworks and road widening activities are complete.</p>
<p>Walking and cycling projects</p>	<p>Construction is ongoing or substantially complete for a number of projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island Bay Cycleway – WCC re-engaging with the community for a review of this project (WCC) • Bike friendly improvements in Ngauranga Gorge (WCC) • First section of the Hutt River Trail has been paved and further sections of this route are in preparation for paving (UHCC) • Cycleway along Western Lake Road linking Featherston to the Rimutaka Rail Trail (SWDC) <p>Several projects within Kapiti’s Stride N Ride programme have also been completed or are well underway, and the remaining projects for this year are being designed.</p> <p>A number of other projects around the region are working through the design and tender stages; this includes several projects in the Urban Cycleways Programme.</p>

Minor public transport improvements	<p>The Waikanae park and ride project continues. The Kapiti District bus service review is complete. Two new bus shelters have been installed at Waikanae Beach.</p> <p>Two variations have been made to the Regional Public Transport Plan. The first aligns the Plan with changes required to facilitate the bus Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM) process. The second is to enable the trial of a cross boundary bus service between Levin and Waikanae. A broader review will be considered after the current PT Fares review.</p> <p>ALCAM level crossing improvements in Wairarapa have been reprioritised by KiwiRail.</p>
Travel demand management programmes	<p>Councils continue to work with schools on school travel planning projects and provide advice and support to numerous schools. This work includes the “Orange Parade” day in December (school crossing patrols celebration day).</p> <p>Preparations for NZTA’s Aotearoa Bike Challenge are underway. This will replace the Active a2b programme for early next year. A new online Regional Summer Cycling Guide was developed to promote family-friendly cycling events.</p> <p>A new software provider for Let’s Carpool has been chosen after a joint assessment with Auckland Transport.</p>
Resilience	<p>Wellington City Council have several resilience projects complete or about to enter the construction phase.</p>

4.5 Progress update on large ‘committed’ projects in the region

The ‘committed’ projects category consists of those activities that began within the previous RLTP programme and have continued on into this current RLTP timeframe.

The table below summarises the larger and more significant committed activities and the progress of these to date.

Committed projects	Update Commentary
Matangi2 train units (GWRC)	100% complete. All units in service within a month of schedule and under budget.
Real Time Information (region-wide bus and rail)(GWRC)	100% complete.

Transmission Gully motorway (NZTA)	<p>Design substantially complete. Harvesting of pine forestry along the route is continuing.</p> <p>Major earthworks have commenced, including in the Te Puka and Horokiri stream valleys.</p> <p>Construction of access underpasses and bridges in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and two other nearby locations is well advanced.</p>
Transmission Gully link roads (PCC)	<p>Design of the link roads to be completed by the end of December 2016, in preparation for construction commencing in early 2017. Final timing of the link roads project is closely linked to the Transmission Gully motorway project.</p> <p>All property agreements, except one, will be finalised by the end of the year.</p>
Kapiti Expressway – MacKays to Peka Peka (NZTA)	<p>Construction of the M2PP Expressway is ahead of its scheduled completion date in June 2017. Works to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raumati Straights – Stage 6 completed, Stages 7 and 8 being finalised • Planting nearing completion across all zones • Waikanae River Bridge complete • Kapiti to Raumati section complete • Construction is nearing completion on the Kapiti Road/Arawhata Road intersection project. <p>SH1 revocation project is continuing with meetings being held to discuss concept design and traffic modelling.</p>
Kapiti Expressway – Peka Peka to Ōtaki (NZTA)	<p>The tender for detailed design was awarded in November 2016.</p> <p>Three alterations to the designation application are being processed for Taylors Road, Pare-o-Matangi Reserve and County Road.</p>
SH2/58 Intersection Improvements – grade separated (NZTA)	<p>Placement of the interchange bridge beams as well as the underpasses at SH58, Manor Park, McDougal Grove and Hebden Crescent are all complete. McDougal Grove local road construction is complete and now carrying traffic.</p> <p>Work has begun on the SH58 retaining wall.</p>
Bridge Road bridge replacement (UHCC)	<p>The old bridge has been demolished and removed.</p> <p>Excavation for bridge abutments and the first pile concreting are complete; reinforcement and piling work are in progress.</p> <p>Fabrication of the structural steel beams is in progress.</p>

4.6 Progress update on large new (significant) projects in the RLTP

Progress on the new RLTP significant activities has been reported by the lead organisation for each project. An overall progress indicator (colour) has been assigned to each project. The coloured progress indicators are primarily determined by the relevant lead organisation for the project but are then confirmed with the report author and the region's transport advisory group (TAG).

Green = progressing well, consistent with anticipated timing, funding certainty, no major barriers.

Orange = progressing, but slower than anticipated timing, some funding uncertainty, some issues/barriers identified.

Red = no or little progress, project has largely stalled, funding not included in NLTP or unlikely for other reasons (e.g. local share), major issue/barrier identified.

Of the 20 significant activities prioritised in the RLTP, 14 are currently underway during this reporting period – 1 July to 31 December 2016. Ten of these activities are progressing on schedule (**Green**). Of the four remaining projects, three have been assessed by the project owners as **Orange** (minor delays) and none as **Red** (significant delays). An overview of these three projects is given below. The Passenger Rail Improvements project (RS1) from the Regional Rail Plan is not included here as it is Crown-funded and not receiving any contributions from the National Land Transport Fund.

Indicator	Project	Comment
	Road Space Reallocation Corridor Programme (WCC)	Programme refresh required with investment to be re-focused in the Eastern and Southern suburbs
	Eastern Bays seawall protection and great harbour way path (HCC)	A change in project scope has caused some slight delays
	SH2 Moonshine Hill Road to Gibbons Street Safety Improvements (NZTA)	Currently considering immediate safety improvements that can be implemented ahead of long-term decisions resulting from the SH2 Programme Business Case.

Attachment 1 of this report provides more detailed information on the status of all the significant projects included in the RLTP. It includes a summary of the project stage, NLTP funding status, and comments on any project milestones, barriers or issues over the past six months that may be positively or negatively affecting a project's progress.

5. Emerging issues and opportunities

The Ministry of Transport has provided an early introduction to the scope and process for developing the next Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Land Transport 2018, and has invited suggestions on the key things they should be considering. Officers will also be inputting to the LGNZ Transport Special Interest Group (TSIG) discussions on this. The draft GPS is expected to be released in early 2017. The RTC and TSIG will prepare submissions on the draft GPS with input from all councils including GWRC.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake near Kaikoura on 14 November caused disruption in the Wellington region including some building damage. The ongoing recovery from this event may have implications for the RLTP programme going forward but these are unknown at this stage.

6. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

This report provides an update on projects included in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 and is for information only.

6.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Update on large new projects in the RLTP 2015