

Report 05.351
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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RLTS Review Consultation Process

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- recommend a process for undertaking consultation during the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) and thereby a means of complying with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Land Transport Act 1998; and
- seek the Committee's approval of strategic options material for initial public consultation as part of the RLTS review.

2. Significance of decision

The matters 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

3.1 RLTS review

The current RLTS was adopted as a whole on 15 September 1999. This was updated by the Western Corridor Implementation Plan in June 2000. The Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) has been reviewing the RLTS since August 2003. Since commencing the review the RLTC has:

- approved a Hutt Corridor Plan (December 2003)
- approved a Wairarapa Corridor Plan (December 2003)
- approved a Regional Cycling Strategy (May 2004)
- approved a Regional Pedestrian Strategy (May 2004)
- approved a Regional Road Safety Strategy (September 2004); and
- adopted a draft vision and draft objectives for the RLTS review (December 2004).

The RLTC is currently:

- developing outcomes and strategic options for public consultation (for release in August 2005, coordinated with WRS consultation)
- developing a Western Corridor Plan (currently preparing for consultation on a preferred option in September 2005)
- developing a Travel Demand Management Strategy (expected to be released for public input in September 2005); and
- in the early stages of developing a CBD Corridor Plan, a Road Pricing Strategy, and a Freight Strategy.

Council's Passenger Transport Committee is developing a Passenger Transport Plan that is integrated with all these activities. It will be released for consultation as part of the draft RLTS in early 2006.

3.2 Timing of the RLTS review

A strict interpretation of section 108 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 requires the RLTS to be renewed by 12 November 2005. This is simply impossible due to the need to follow statutory consultation processes and to coordinate inputs from three significant parallel processes. These are:

- The Wellington Transport Project, now largely complete with the announcement of additional funding on 5 July 2005. This process 'input' \$885M over the next ten years and was necessary in order to determine the region's affordability envelope so that funding can be taken into account in the RLTS in accordance with section 175(2)(d) of the Land Transport Act 1998.
- The Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) which is currently defining the region's growth framework.
- The Western Corridor Transportation Study which is currently in the middle of a process to define the strategic plan for transport improvements in that corridor. Necessary strategic transport improvements in that corridor will account for over 60% of investments over the next ten years and therefore it is a necessary input to the RLTS review.

Another interpretation of section 108 would require the RLTS to be renewed by 12 November 2006. The current RLTS was adopted as a whole on 15 September 1999, however this view recognises that it has been updated several times as set out in section 3.1 above.

3.3 Alignment with the WRS

Officers have been working closely with the WRS project in order to integrate our processes. It is proposed that this culminates in the simultaneous release of the RLTS strategic options material with the WRS growth framework on 15 August 2005 as set out in report 05.352 also on this agenda. Explanation of the RLTS strategic options is described in section 5 of this report.

4. Decision-making requirements

4.1 Community and interests affected

Section 179 of the Land Transport Act 1998 (as amended by the Land Transport Management Act 2003 and the Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2004) specifies that when preparing a regional land transport strategy, the Council must use the special consultative procedure under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and consult the following:

- (a) *Repealed (was Transfund)*
- (b) Transit; and
- (c) the Authority; and
- (d) the Commissioner; and
- (e) the territorial authorities in the region; and
- (f) the adjoining regional councils and territorial authorities; and
- (g) the Historic Places Trust of New Zealand; and
- (h) land transport users and providers; and
- (i) the public in the region; and
- (j) the district health boards in the region; and
- (k) every affected approved public organisation in the region; and
- (l) affected communities; and
- (m) Maori of the region; and
- (n) the Accident Compensation Corporation.

Council delegations to the RLTC include carrying out an approved consultation programme. The RLTC has not been able to recommend the consultation process to Council or finalise its strategic options work due to timing constraints dictated by the WRS process.

4.2 Consideration of community views

Consistent with Council's delegation, it is proposed that the RLTC carries out consultation for the RLTS review in the following manner:

- 15 August 2005 - release a 'strategic options' consultation document in conjunction with the launch of the WRS growth framework
- 30 September 2005 – submissions close

- 8 December 2005 – consider submissions at the scheduled RLTC meeting
- February 2006 – approve a draft RLTS for consultation
- April 2006 – RLTC sub-committee hears submissions
- May 2006 – RLTC adopts a final draft RLTS and sends it to financial stakeholders for comment
- July 2006 – RLTC recommends RLTS to Council
– Council adopts RLTS.

Attachment 1 sets out the above programme in a table which also shows how the proposed timing aligns with the WRS programme and other activities. Timing from December is indicative only as the needs of the process may dictate changes to the timeframes outlined above. For instance, if many submitters to the strategic options consultation wish to be heard, then there may not be sufficient time at the regular RLTC meeting to do so, especially as Western Corridor business may have a higher priority and take a large part of that meeting. Also, depending on number and complexity of the submissions, additional time may be required to fully analyse and consider the views expressed.

5. Definition and assessment of options

5.1 Objectives and outcomes

The RLTC has developed objectives and outcomes for the RLTS review (refer **attachment 2**, page 10). Proposals will be assessed against their contribution to these objectives and outcomes. Processes involve both quantitative assessments, primarily based on forecasts from the region's strategic transport model; and qualitative assessments which are peer reviewed by the RLTC's Technical Working Group.

5.2 Strategic options

The RLTC workshop on 15 June 2005 considered initial strategic options material. This involved:

- a recap of vision, objectives and outcomes work
- the identification of the region's affordability envelope
- the description of three strategic options (Advanced Passenger Transport, Planned Investment and Advanced Rooding)
- a discussion about the evaluation of those options; and
- a definition of next steps which highlighted this material would go to a public consultation process aligned with the WRS in August 2005.

This material has been further developed and has been summarised into the draft consultation document (refer **attachment 2**). A full technical report will also be made available via the GW website.

6. Communications

Consistent with other RLTC communications, the following media will be used for communication during the development of the new RLTS:

- media release
- public notices
- news article in GWRC publication *Elements*
- GWRC website (material available as pdf)
- mail out to organisations listed in the Land Transport Act
- cross referencing in all WRS growth framework communications and processes.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends that Council:

1. **Request** the Regional Land Transport Committee to carry out consultation for the RLTS review as set out in paragraph 4.2 of this report.
2. **Note** the RLTS public consultation will commence simultaneously with the WRS growth framework in August 2005.
3. **Approve** strategic options material for public consultation as set out in attachment 2 of this report.

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Attachments

- 1 – Consultation process timelines
- 2 – Draft strategic options consultation document