

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 13 February 2024, commencing at 11.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Joe Carr
Deputy Chairperson, NRC Councillor John Blackwell
FNDC Councillor Steve McNally
WDC Councillor Simon Reid
KDC Councillor Ash Nayyar
Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships Steve Mutton
KiwiRail Programme Director Northland, Eric Hennephof

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne
NRC Governance Specialist, Gavin Dawson
NRC Secretariat, Erica Wyatt
NRC Policy and Planning Administrator, Rachael King
NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas
NTA Transport Manager, Chris Powell
NTA Representative, Jeff Devine
NTA Representative, Nicole Cauty
NTA Representative, Kayla Gunson
NTA Representative, Elizabeth Stacy
Automobile Association Representative, Tracey Risetto
Waka Kotahi, Martin Taylor (*online*)
Waka Kotahi, Gavin Smith (*online*)
Waka Kotahi, Craig Crawford (*online*)
FNDC Councillor, Ann Court (*alternate*)
WDC CE, Simon Weston
WDC Councillor, Phil Halse (*alternate*)
Member of the Public, Steve Cornwall

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.00am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)

It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Confirmation of Minutes - 04 December 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Reid / Nayyar)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 4 December 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (McNally / Mutton)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Funding Uptake Report (Item 6.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / Nayyar)

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Funding Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Action:

- Secretariat will circulate an out of meeting report once councils have had their funding uptake reports finalised.
- Councillor Nayyar would like to have the reasons for the Kaipara and Far North Transport Choice Projects being stopped in writing. A response was verbally provided from NTA during the meeting and will be followed up with an email response.
- In future, consistent with NZ Treasury directive, future reporting will move from a focus on defining performance purely in terms of expenditure and outputs to one that incorporates quality of delivery and results.

2024/27 Regional Speed Management Plan – Impact of Government Announcement on the 2024/27 Regional Speed Limit Plan and Associate Consultation (Item 8.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / Mutton)

That the report '2024/27 Regional Speed Management Plan – Impact of Government Announcement on the 2024/27 Regional Speed Limit Plan and Associate Consultation' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

2021/27 RLTP Key Performance Indicators Achievement Update (Item 8.2)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (McNally / Reid)

That the report '2021/27 RLTP Key Performance Indicators Achievement Update' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Action:

- The Committee requires more time to better understand the set Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). A deep dive workshop is to be organised.

Northland Road Safety Activity Update (Item 8.3)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance; Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Mutton / Blackwell)

That the report 'Northland Road Safety Activity Update' by Northland Transportation Alliance staff dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Report taken as read.

An update on figures since report was distributed: 45 deaths compared to 40 in 2023. Eight in Northland compared to seven in 2023.

Committee would like to acknowledge Ann-Marie Fitchett (NZ Police) and her team for the work put in to exceeding their targets.

Official Information Request to NZTA: SH1 South Side of the Brynderwyns (Item 8.4)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / Carr)

1. That the report 'Official Information Request to NZTA: SH1 South Side of the Brynderwyns' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience and dated 25 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Moved: (Carr / Reid)

2. NZTA are to have completed an independent peer review of their intended imminent Brynderwyns work and arrange a walkover of the three proposed routes with RTC members and a Geotech expert. This is to be treated with urgency and preferably prior to the Brynderwyn closures on 26 February.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Amendments were made to include resolution 2, following conversation of the Joint Committee members.

The committee requested that they hold an elected member only time, with no staff present to discuss this matter.

A WSP/Fulton Hogan report on the Brynderwyns was distributed to committee members. This will be attached to the outgoing minutes.

Due to major concerns of under slips the two lanes will be pushed further into the hill leaving the existing northern lane for construction equipment to use. This option is to last between 5-10 years allowing time to scope a safer and more resilient route.

Until the release of the Government Policy Statement (GPS) and funding is secured to develop the business case for an alternative route, no further work can be done.

Community feedback on the proposed closure of the Brynderwyns to carry out this work was received from holding webinars and sending out surveys. A Steering Group was also formed and included community leaders, the mayor, local businesses including tourism and Northland Inc, hapu/iwi and others.

Formal reporting by the RTC to NRC and the 3 Northland RCA TLAs (Item 8.5)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendations

Moved: (Nayyar / Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Formal reporting by the RTC to NRC and the 3 Northland RCA TLAs' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience and dated 30 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Moved: (Carr / McNally)

2. That the Chair of the RTC compiles a draft report to the Northland Councils advising on the following matters:

- a. The Southside of the Brynderwyns including the need for an OIA request from NZTA,
- b. Matters pertaining to the NTA/ Northland councils 'CEO's' Aldridge Review.

Carried

Action:

- The chair will circulate the draft to RTC members for their consideration and response before delivery to the respective councils.

Review of Northland Transportation Services - Update (Item 8.6)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / McNally)

That the report 'Review of Northland Transportation Services – Update' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager – Community Resilience and dated 31 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: First draft is on track and is to be delivered at the end of February 2024 and will remain on track for final delivery in March 2024.

Due to limited funds into this review, there is a query around the credibility of the report.

Action:

- NRC to circulate to the committee members the 17A plus Review Terms of Reference (which includes thirteen more points of reference).

NZTA update (Item 8.7)

Report from Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Reid / Blackwell)

That the report 'NZTA update' by Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau and dated 30 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

Focus is on Mangamuka Gorge opening end of 2024.

Kaeo bridge opening brought forward to late February.

Action:

- Hyperlinks in the NZTA update attachments to be recirculated to committee members.
- NZTA to circulate to committee members a list of the areas where reseal and revamps are occurring.

KiwiRail update (Item 6.8)

Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Secretarial note: Verbal update given.

Unfortunately, there were technical difficulties at today's meeting and the committee were unable to watch the video from KiwiRail. It can be watched at the following link. f.io/udOdtVr9 –

Action:

- NZTA to confirm the land already purchased for the 4-lane highway between Whangarei and Marsden is protected and will not be for sale.

Committee members priorities and updates (Item 8.9)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Reid / Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Committee members priorities and updates' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 14 December 2023, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.

Carried

Public Consultation Programme for Draft RLTP (Item 7.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance; Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Recommendation(s)

Moved: (Ash / Reid)

1. That the report 'Public Consultation Programme for Draft RLTP' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager – Northland Transportation Alliance; Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 21 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Moved: (Carr / Nayyar)

2. That the Regional Land Transport Committee approve the dates for the Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 – Three Year Review

Carried

Secretarial note: Resolution 2 moved with provision of new dates for the Far North to ensure Cr. Court and Cr. McNally can attend.

There is concern the proposed dates and times are during office hours which limits community numbers attending, especially those in full time work. Historically this has not been an issue. With the opportunity to submit online this will help capture those who are unable to attend in person.

NTA staff will be in attendance at Dargaville Field Days alongside Cr. Nayyar.

Cr. Nayyar, Cr. Carr and Cr. Blackwell will be in attendance at the proposed 'Have Your Say Events' (HYSE) for their districts. Steve Mutton will be available to take any phone calls during these events.

Rawene hall was unavailable due to renovations. Opononi session will be held at the Opononi War Memorial Hall.

An extra HYSE will be arranged at NRC with an online option available. Date to be confirmed with committee members.

All RTC members were encouraged to attend all 'Have Your Say' sessions across the region.

Action:

- NRC to liaise with Cr. Court and Cr. McNally new HYSE dates.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm.

Unconfirmed