

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 1 October 2024, commencing at 11.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

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

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

FNDC CEO, Guy Holroyd (online)
NRC CEO, Jono Gibbard
NRC Councillor, Geoff Crawford
WDC Councillor, Phil Halse
FNDC Councillor, Ann Court
FNDC Transportation Services Manager Rob Gilmore
WDC GM – Infrastructure, Jim Sephton
NRC Transport Manager, Chris Powell
NRC Regional Transport Coordinator, Kayla Gunson
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle
Roadsafe NZ Representative, Ashley Johnston

Part Meeting

KDC GM Infrastructure Services, Anin Nama
NRC GM Regulatory Services, Colin Dall
NRC Policy and Planning Manager, Tami Woods
Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group Chair, Julia McLean
Caulerpa contractor, Andrew Johnson

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.00am with a Karakia by Cr Nayyar.

Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Nayyar / McNally)

That the apologies from Moko Tepania, Stephanie Hudson, Rachael Williams, Tracey Risetto, Lisa De Coek for non-attendance be received.

Carried

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 - 6 August 2024 (Item 4.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Blackwell / Nayyar)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 6 August 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet - 1 October 2024 (Item 5.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Blackwell / Nayyar)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Action 5 (6/8/24) Brynderwyns repair total costs update received from Steve Mutton that original allocation was \$81M. There is a final reseal to be completed. Working through final costs and will communicate when figures available – action carried over.

Item 2 (13/2/24) KPIs in progress – with The closure of NTA it is a matter for discussion with roading managers to recommend a format to RTC.

Presentation - Horse Riders to be formally recognised as a Vulnerable Road User (Item 6.1)

Presentation from Julia McLean, Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group Chair

Moved (Carr/ Blackwell)

That the report 'Presentation - Horse Riders to be formally recognised as a Vulnerable Road User' by Julia McLean, Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group Chair and dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Horse riders are currently categorised as 'other road users' Julia would like to see them given vulnerable status. She has a petition to deliver to Government (Transport Minister) 15/10/24 and is seeking a letter of support stating the RTC recognise the vulnerability.

Action:

1. Chair to consult with RTC members to gauge their level of support on a support letter to MoT
2. Chair to provide a response to Julia McLean following consultation with RTC members

Presentation - Opportunities for Barging in Northland (Item 6.2)

Report from Andrew Johnson, Marine Contractor

Moved (Carr/ Nayyar)

That the report 'Presentation - Opportunities for Barging in Northland' by Andrew Johnson, Marine Contractor (Caulerpa) and dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The purpose of the presentation was to bring to the attention of the RTC, the opportunities that barging presents. A small project using a barge was recently undertaken and saved 50% of cost and 70% in time. Discussed constraints to consent and the need for a pathway to become a permitted activity. A change of plan is a long process but a consent process is a potential approach. Andrew will liaise with Colin Dall to explore the best way forward. Reference was made to barging study undertaken by NRC in 2004. Cr McNally wanted it recorded that at a later date, an investigation be undertaken into recreational users taking over commercial space (reference to Opua).

Action:

1. Circulate presentation given by Andrew Johnson on barging opportunities in Northland to RTC members following the October meeting
2. NRC regulatory staff to work with Andrew Johnson to find a pathway exploring the options (including that of NRC holding a consent for operators) and report back to RTC

Funding Uptake Report (Item 6.3)

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

Moved (McNally/ Nayyar)

That the report 'Funding Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 7 August 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The National Land Transport Programme was released in September 2024 which provided insufficient time to gather the required information for the report. The December 2024 RTC meeting will cover this period. At 6/8/24 meeting it was asked that going forward each Elected Representative speak to their relevant council roading reports at the RTC meeting. Written reports were received from WDC and KDC but not FNDC. A verbal update was provided by Rob Gilmore FNDC.

Action:

1. Rob Gilmore FNDC to send points from verbal report to NRC secretariat for circulation
2. All three councils to report to Steve Mutton on their focus on temporary traffic management (what is being put in place) noting the expectation on reducing overall cost and impact on customers
3. WDC (Jim Sephton) to report to Steve Mutton on the low pass rate of quality inspections and what is being done to ensure the quality is right with the amount of work being pushed out in a very short timeframe

National Land Transport Programme 2024/2027 - Implications for Roothing Authorities' Work Programmes (Item 6.4)

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

Moved (Reid/ McNally)

That the report 'National Land Transport Programme 2024/2027 - Implications for Roothing Authorities' Work Programmes' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional

Council and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The report provides high level feedback on what national funding assistance was approved in the National Land Transport Programme 2024-2027. The NLTP link provided in the report takes users to the regional activity tables which includes Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency nationally delivered activities, the approved and potential National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) investment in programmes and projects for each respective council.

NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau (Item 6.5)

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

Moved (Reid/ McNally)

That the report 'NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau' by Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau and dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Northland Corridor RONS AKL-WHG, professional service advisors onboard, paper to go to cabinet by end of year – a meeting with elected members will be organised to talk through the paper to cabinet. Chair reiterated the importance of getting all of the work done that the funding has been granted for – spend the funding allocation. Noted that money was invested to strengthen Cove Rd/Paparoa Rd as an alternate route. There is work to be completed under the NLTP.

Actions:

1. Steve Mutton to liaise with Cr Nayyar to converse about bridge closures
2. Steve Mutton to arrange meeting to take members through RONS paper going to cabinet

KiwiRail Update (Item 6.6)

Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland

Moved (Blackwell/ Carr)

That the report 'KiwiRail Update' by Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland and dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Newsletter not ready when agenda circulated (was awaiting North Auckland line to reopen – 26 September 2024). Circulated electronically to members ahead of meeting and hard copy distributed at the meeting. The chair thanked Eric for getting the rail opened in Northland. NRC chair Geoff Crawford acknowledged rail and how critical it is for growth in Northland. Whangarei OT yard now operational. Geotech investigations are ongoing with excavation pits taking place on Marsden Rail Link and finalising property purchases along the route. It is possible to get freight to Auckland however freight and metro timetables need to line up.

Regional Road Safety Report (Item 6.7)

Report from Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator; Nicole Korach, Project Manager - Road Safety Promotion and Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Carr/ Blackwell)

That the report 'Regional Road Safety Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager – Northland Regional Council, Nicole Korach, Road Safety Project Manager, Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator, and Nick Marshall, Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead, dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Report on Visits by Chair and Deputy Chair (Item 6.8)

Report from NRC Councillor, Joe Carr

Moved (Blackwell/ Carr)

That the report 'Report on Visits by Chair and Deputy Chair' by Joe Carr, Councillor - Northland Regional Council and dated 11 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Chair gave thanks to NZTA for organising the visits that comprised a workshop to understand the issues in Northland which NZTA are aware of. The significant increase in funding is a pathway forward. Expressed concern about high level of rehabilitation needed for Northland roads.

Committee Members Priorities and Updates (Item 6.9)

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

Moved (Nayyar/ Reid)

1. That the report 'Committee Members Priorities and Updates' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 9 August 2024, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Cr Reid stated that the Springs Flat roundabout project was put on hold by WDC to bring focus to the Whangarei Bypass project as a whole. Western bypass to be formalised (will compromise through traffic). The WDC is seeking support for a bypass for Whangarei (starting at Loop Road through to Hikurangi) to remove heavy traffic going through town – asked the RTC to include in the next Regional Land Transport Plan an investigation into a bypass of Whangarei. Cr McNally raised Mangakahia/Broadway intersection wanting to see a roundabout considered. This was previously rejected by the community.

Cr Carr informed the RTC that the December 2024 meeting will commence at 10am (30mins early) and will finish at 1230pm (same time)

Action:

1. NRC secretariat to update calendar invite for the December RTC meeting with revised timing
2. Cr McNally and Steve Mutton to have a conversation offline about Mangakahia Rd/Broadway intersection roundabout

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.29pm