

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 11 December 2024, commencing at 10:00am - 12:30pm

Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Joe Carr
Deputy Chairperson, Councillor John Blackwell
FNDC Councillor, Steve McNally
WDC Councillor (Alternate), Phil Halse
NZTA Waka Kotahi - Director Regional Relationships, Steve Mutton
KiwiRail Programme Director Northland, Eric Hennephof

In Attendance:

Full Meeting

WDC Mayor, Vince Cocurullo
FNDC Councillor – alternate, Ann Court
WDC GM Infrastructure, Jim Sephton
NRC Group Manager - Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Transport Manager, Chris Powell
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi – Principal Investment Advisor, Martin Taylor
NRC Regional Transport Coordinator, Kayla Gunson
WDC Programme Manager - Road Safety Promotion, Nicole Korach
AA Representative, Tracey Risetto
NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi - Regional Manager System Design, Kathryn King
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi – Lead System Planner, Brian Waddell
Northland Road Safety Trust, John Williamson
FNDC Manager Transportation Team Development, Margriet Veenstra
FNDC Maintenance Lead, Apikali Rokobigi

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10am with karakia by Jim Sephton.

Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Halse / Blackwell)

That the apologies from KDC Councillor Ash Nayyar, WDC Councillor Simon Reid, KDC Councillor (alternate) Rachel Williams, FNDC Transportation Services Manager Rob Gilmore, NRC Councillor Tui Shortland, NRC Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones, NRC Councillor Jack Craw FNDC Mayor Moko Tepania, NRC Councillor Geoff Crawford, FNDC Tanya Proctor, KDC Matt Tucker - GM Service Delivery for non-attendance be received.

Carried

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 - 1 October 2024 (Item 4.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (McNally / Blackwell)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 1 October 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Carr / McNally)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

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

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Halse / McNally)

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 12 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Jim Septon (Whangarei District Council)

- *Transport Choices program progressing.*
- *T2 lane work progressing well*
- *Rose Street upgrade on schedule.*
- *Reallocation of projects with local share*
- *On track to achieve targets for the year.*

- *Cr Steve McNally (Far North District Council)*
 - *Apikali provided an update, projects are on track in the Far North.*
 - *In line with transport minister's 'back-to-basics' approach*

- *Cr Carr*
 - *Positive feedback received regionally for NZTA from contractors*
 - *Increased government funding is helpful.*
 - *Less disruption from roadworks working well.*

NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau (Item 7.1)

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

Moved (Mutton / Blackwell)

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 13 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Steve Mutton thanked the RTC for their support over the last 12 months. Mangamuka Gorge reopens 20/12/24 but there will be stop/go management in place to complete the remainder of the work in the downward slope. Will have completed 88 lane km by the end of November on the reseal sites pavement programme. Sitting at 97% on the pothole target vs government target of 95%. The final reseal of the Brynderwyns has been delayed until Nov 2025, NZTA wanted to do now however feedback received from the business community asked not to do now. Involved a pavement specialist in the decision making who is confident the seal will last until Nov 25, and any repairs prior can be a nighttime traffic closure. Geotech investigation completed on Warkworth to Te Hana for the northern corridor and will be running events over summer about the project. Section 2-3 Te Hana-Whangarei will be confirmed in first quarter of 2025. Still looking at preferred routes for 4-laning and not finalising until first quarter 2025 The bridge deck has been completed on Loop Road and on track to open in third quarter 2025. New speed control rules and the implications for the road controlling authorities was discussed. Confirmed that variable speed limits will be in place 30min before and after school and this doesn't need to be electronic. There is no requirement for the RTC to be involved in speed limit changes under the new rules.

KiwiRail Update (Item 7.2)

Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland

Moved (Hennephof / Carr)

That the report 'KiwiRail Update' by Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland and dated 13 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Eric provided a map/plan to the chair for the rail corridor to Marsden Point. Reference design for the Marsden Point Rail Link is progressing and they continue to work on a detailed business case which will be complete mid next year, majority of property purchases completed and stage 3 of Geotech investigation underway. Hapu engagement underway on design with the first hui held 28/11/24.

It has been a challenging year to repair the North Auckland Line (NAL). The NAL is open, and the Whangarei Container Terminal upgrade is complete. Moving freight from Fonterra and Golden Bay Cement is underway and they are looking to get more customers. There is an ongoing bridge inspection/maintenance programme in place for the next 6-months.

The team has met with NZTA re: RONS on the 12/11/24 and provided them with their design and geotechnical information.

Is an attendee at the Whangarei to Port Advisory group who will meet again on 17/12/24. Working with Whangarei District Council planners to amend the designation through Mata Hill which involves shifting the northern boundary so that it excludes iwi property.

Discussions with Northport and Marsden Maritime Holdings to optimise commercial opportunities, port operation and entry, providing them with the rail design including marshalling yards.

Regional Road Safety Report (Item 7.3)

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 Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager, Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator, and Nick Marshall, Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead, dated 29 November 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: There was a road safety stand at the Whangarei AMP show 7 December with road safety partners. Engaged with more than 700 members of the public and won best trade site at the show. Nicole thanks Steve Mutton for NZTAs presence at the show. Roadsafes Taranaki attended with a seatbelt simulator which is a resource Northland road safety partners will have access to. There has been two months with zero fatalities on the road which hasn't happened in over 5yrs. Nationally there has been 52 less deaths than last year. Has an upcoming campaign 'Patience to Paradise'. NZTA are taking over safety camera from Police, there are some trials underway for measures other than speeding however there is no legislation to enforce.

Committee Members Priorities and Updates (Item 7.4)

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

Moved (McNally / Carr)

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 12 November 2024, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Steve Mutton responded to query on the two bridges on SH14 via email and copied others in, walking and cycling facilities had been queried however there is no funding so wont be allowed for on these bridges, the work undertaken was for strengthening purposes.

Cr Halse – To be able to confirm subsidy rate earlier would be ideal. There has been better liaison between Councils. Four lanning will impact Whangarei greatly

Cr McNally – Taken a look at the overall strategy of road management to ensure contracts and work programme align with the Ministers changes to GPS, NLTP, RLTP and our LTP plus prior plans to improve roads across the Far North. This tactical approach was triggered by this RTC 2yrs ago and it is good to see changes that have been implemented from the Ministers office down to district council level. Also good to see the realisation that the funding model needs adjustment and work is progressing on the funding model at central government. Has concerns that staff don't understand the bigger picture so governance needs to work on ensuring staff understand that the back to basics, prioritised incremental improvements are planned to have a lasting impact, which is quite different to the reactionary way they have become used to. Rethink of traffic management to have workers kept safe and have money spent on road improvements has been well received by contractors and the public. Far North is reviewing RAMM data to fact check data accuracy It has been disturbing to

hear that some of the maintenance work specified in the contracts have not been done for many years. FNDC will have to rectify some of the issues identified when developing the new maintenance contracts. RAMM review should assist this.

Jim Sephton – Maintenance contracts come out on Friday these are 9yr duration. There will be a focus on inspections in house and alongside is a renewal panel. The plan is to get contractors involved earlier and ensure a smart approach to traffic management.

The chair thanked everyone for their contributions to the RTC this year. Getting resilience and route security is priority work

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 11.07am with Karakia by Jim Sephton.

Un-confirmed