

## Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC Council Chambers  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 11 February 2025, commencing at 10.30am

### Present:

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

### In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

NRC Transport Manager, Chris Powell  
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle  
NRC Regional Transport Coordinator, Kayla Gunson  
FNDC Transportation Services Manager Rob Gilmore - FNDC  
WDC GM Infrastructure, Jim Sephton  
WDC Councillor – Alternate, Phil Halse  
KDC Acting Roading Manager, Curt Martin  
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi – Principal Investment Advisor,  
Martin Taylor (online)  
WDC Transportation Strategy and Planning Lead, Nick Marshall  
Managing Director - Hoskin Civil, Kevin Hoskin  
NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne (online)  
AA Representative, Tracey Risetto

#### Part Meeting

Tracks and Trails Project Manager, Amanda Bennett

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1030am.

### Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

### Apologies (Item 2.0)

#### Moved (Reid /Blackwell)

That the apologies from FNDC Councillor Steve McNally, FNDC Councillor – Alternate, Ann Court 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 - 11 December 2024 (Item 4.1)**

**Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience**

**Moved (Mutton /Nayyar)**

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 11 December 2024, 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 Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience**

**Moved (Blackwell /Nayyar)**

That the action sheet be received.

**Carried**

### **Northland Tracks and Trails (Item 6.1)**

**Report from Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the report 'Northland Tracks and Trails' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 31 January 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Amanda Bennett discussed the Northland tracks and trails project, highlighting the strategy document, economic benefits, and the need for a reporting channel. Distributed copies of the Northland walking and cycling strategy document, explaining its creation and involvement of various councils and organizations. Highlighted the economic benefits of the project, including the creation of 265 jobs and an annual contribution of \$165 million to the GDP. Mentioned the \$33 million application to the Regional Infrastructure Fund and the comprehensive business case supporting it. She recommended that the project be reported through the Regional Transport Committee to ensure regular updates and support from key organizations.*

### **Actions**

- 1. Seek feedback from NRC management on the appropriate channel for reporting updates on the Northland tracks and Trails, e.g. through the RTC, JRED or Northland Inc and communicate with NTT**

## **Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report (Item 6.2)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

### **Moved (Nayyar / Blackwell)**

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 23 January 2025/20 December 2024, be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Concerns were raised about community communication regarding the prioritization and completion of emergency works, with suggestions for improving engagement. Discussions included the allocation of funding for emergency works, the challenges of resource availability, and the impact of contractor capacity on project completion.*

## **Road Controlling Authority Quarterly Reports (Item 7.1)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

### **Moved (Nayyar / Carr)**

That the report 'Road Controlling Authority Quarterly Reports' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 20 December 2024, be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Updates were provided on the status of maintenance contracts, including the performance of contractors and the progress of ongoing projects. The establishment of a three-year emergency works panel was discussed, aimed at addressing significant slip sites and involving local businesses.*

*Environmental requirements and their impact on the timeline for completing emergency works were discussed, including the need for consents and the challenges posed by specific environmental agencies.*

## **NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau (Item 7.2)**

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

### **Moved (Mutton / Carr)**

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 20 December 2024, be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Announced the appointment of Chris Bishop as the new Minister of Transport, highlighting his experience and familiarity with the sector. Introduced Brett Gliddon as the new Chief Executive of NZTA, emphasising his qualifications and experience in delivering large infrastructure projects. Discussed the new land transport rule setting speed limits, including the consultation process and the specific roads affected by the changes. Finalising the sealing on Loop Road with lane changes in place 27/2*

### **Actions:**

- 1. (moved – Carr/Nayyar) RTC to draft a letter for sending to the new CEO of NZTA congratulating him on his appointment and expressing the committees approval**

**2. Cr Carr to discuss speed bump in Kawakawa offline with NZTA Director Regional Relationships**

**KiwiRail Update (Item 7.3)**

**Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland**

**Moved (Hennephof / Blackwell)**

That the report 'KiwiRail Update' by Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland and dated 20 December 2024, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes:*

- Rail volume from Fonterra is now 16 wagons per day from its factory to Kauri
- Each tonne of freight moved by rail results in a 70% reduction in carbon emissions compared to road transport
- The repair work on the North Auckland Line (NAL) continues to bed down well with repeated rail movements. Ballast tamping and rail distress work is programmed for this month. Bridge maintenance programme progressing on target
- Repair work to secure bank at site 228 substantially complete
- Otiria – Continuing to develop relationships with Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust through MOU, lease and material
- Marsden Point Rail Link – Final land purchase settles on 28/2/25. Second stage of Geotech investigations underway. Site walkover with Patuharakeke and Parawhau on 29/1/25. Design options meeting (particularly along the causeway) held with NZTA on 28/1/25. Continuing with consent/designation discussions with NRC and WDC

**Regional Road Safety Report (Item 7.4)**

**Report from Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

**Moved (Blackwell / Reid)**

That the report 'Regional Road Safety Report' by, Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Nick Marshall, Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead, dated 23 January 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Highlighted the decrease in deaths and serious injuries since 2024, attributing it to increased enforcement and collaboration among agencies. Emphasized the role of increased police enforcement on alcohol and speed, as well as the alignment of messaging among road safety partners. There has been an increase in drug impairment with nearly a third of fatalities involving drug impairment.*

**Actions (moved - Reid/Nayyar)**

1. NRC Transport manager to Draft a letter on behalf of the RTC to the police recognising their hard work and efforts in reducing road fatalities and ensuring road safety

## **NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Alternate Representative to the Regional Transport Committee (Item 7.5)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

### **Moved (Blackwell / Reid)**

That the report 'NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Alternate Representative to the Regional Transport Committee' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 17 December 2024, be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Newly appointed alternate for NZTA Kathryn King - Regional Manager System Design gives her apologies for this meeting*

## **Committee Members Priorities and Updates (Item 7.6)**

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

### **Moved (Carr / Blackwell)**

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 23 January 2025, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Concerns were raised about traffic and safety issues on State Highway 12, including the need for traffic lights or a roundabout in Dargaville. Concerned about lack of lighting at gas station in Kaihu. Members discussed the long-term impacts of forestry on roads, including future view to a targeted rate to fund future road maintenance and improvements. The need for a regional integrated transport strategy was emphasized, with discussions on updating existing strategies and incorporating resilience and security considerations. Discussion about prolonged road closures after serious accidents*

## **Conclusion**

**The meeting concluded at 12.16pm.**