

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 1 April 2025, commencing at 10:30 am - 12:30pm

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 (online)
Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships, Steve Mutton
KiwiRail Programme Director Northland, Eric Hennephof

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

WDC Councillor – alternate, Phil Halse
FNDC Councillor - alternate, Ann Court
KDC Councillor – alternate, Rachel Williams
NRC Councillor, Marty Robinson
FNDC Manager of Transportation Services, Edward Varley
KDC Acting Roading Manager, Curt Martin
Group Manager - Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
WDC GM Infrastructure, Jim Sephton
NRC Transport Manager, Chris Powell
NZTA Representative, Kathryn King (online)
NZ Transport Agency – Principal Investment Advisor, Martin Taylor
NRC Policy Specialist, Micael Payne (online)
NRC Regional Transport Coordinator, Kayla Gunson
AA Representative, Tracey Risetto
Northland Road Safety Trust, Ashley Johnson
WDC Programme Manager - Road Safety Promotion, Nicole Korach
Member of the public, David Eke
Member of the public, Hugh Stratton

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1030am.

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 - 11 February 2025 (Item 4.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Mutton/Carr)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 11 February 2025 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 (Williams/Hennepf)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The speed bump in Kawakawa was discussed which has been causing issues for vehicles. It was decided by NZTA that the platform would be removed and rebuilt with a lower angle to resolve these concerns. Clarified with NZTA that no raised platforms are being installed on state highways. The specific issue in Kawakawa was highlighted as an exception due to its location on a bypass. Recreation Road, Kaikohe was mentioned and it was decided to take this item offline for further discussion.

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

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Reid/Carr)

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 6 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The funding applications submitted by each approved authority to NZTA cover the period from July 1 to February 28. The quarterly report will be lodged with NZTA on April 16, including feedback from various road controlling authorities on the funding update. The chair emphasized the importance of avoiding significant carry overs to maintain credibility and ensure efficient use of funds.

RTC Identified a risk around recruitment and retention challenges (particularly senior staff) and the need for efficiency and productivity within the roading teams. Suggestions made for creating cadet positions and regional training strategies.

Actions:

- 1. RTC to write a letter to NZTA to acknowledge the performance achieved this construction season (Carr/Balckwell)**
- 2. KDC to discuss extension of increased FAR for KDC with NZTA offline as per late tabled request received after agenda circulated and not discussed at the meeting**
- 3. GMs of councils to update RTC at the next meeting on their strategies to address recruitment and retention.**

Road Controlling Authority Reports (Item 7.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (McNally/Reid)

That the report 'Road Controlling Authority Reports' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 6 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: FNDC are Looking into the possibility of reopening closed quarries to source aggregate for the far north district.

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/Reid)

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 10 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: There are currently 150 people working on the Northland Corridor. Geotech continues on the Warkworth to Te Hana route with 10 drilling rigs in there. Met the first stage of procurement for PPP and EOI have gone out to the market, this will be a staged approach. Speed limits are under review with a 6-week consultation period recently started. Results from earlier consultation will be available soon. NZTA is exploring an increased speed limit for the Puhoi to Warkworth route as the road was designed to accommodate higher speeds. Noted a significant increase in restricted and full licence pass rates. Currently on track to be out of Mangamuka by the end of April. Progress on Loop Road being made with the work due for completion by the end of the year. Talked about procurement and the ability to unbundle work to offer it to smaller contractors (to build their capacity) with an integrated delivery model. The chair expressed the appreciation of the committee for the resources put into the RONS project

KiwiRail Update (Item 7.3)

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 10 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Formal hui have been held with respective local hapu (Patuharekeke and Parawhau) who they are partnering with in the development of the reference design. Hapu form part of the project team and have contributed to the Safety in Design, Environment in Design, and Sustainability in Design workshops. Hapu have provided valuable input into the Archaeological Authority application and review project reports as they become available. Local hapu have had the ability to monitor in a cultural capacity the majority of the geotechnical investigation. KiwiRail are continuing to work with Fonterra on improving the entrance to their siding and the siding itself. Some additional funding has been realised for the repair of some further critical culverts along the NAL.

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/Mutton)

That the report 'Regional Road Safety Report' by, Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Nick Marshall, Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead, dated 14 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Update provided that the current road toll is six, compared to 14 at the same time last year, showing an improvement in road safety. The police will focus on speed enforcement for the next six weeks, with an emphasis on reducing speed-related incidents. Efforts are being made to improve safety around schools, with police identifying schools where students' travel safety needs to be addressed. Police have been sending through more reports on minor crashes. Noted that Road Safety week is approaching. The bill has passed for oral fluid testing (drugs). NZTA congratulated the team on their efforts to reduce the road toll but would like to see a focus on restraints and impairment as this continues to be an issue.

Action:

- 1. Road Safety Project Manager to check if any data is available to share with NZTA on an increase of road incidents following long periods of dry weather**

Regional Transport Infrastructure Resilience Study (Item 7.5)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Carr/McNally)

That the report 'Regional Transport Infrastructure Resilience Study' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 7 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Discussed the scope and importance of the Regional Transport Infrastructure Resilience Study, which aims to collect and integrate data from various sources to support funding applications and prioritisation of projects for the Regional Land Transport Plan. The study will provide a strong business case for funding applications to NZTA and other relevant authorities, ensuring efficient use of available funds. The study will involve collaboration with road controlling authorities, civil defence, and other stakeholders to gather comprehensive data on transport infrastructure resilience.

KDC wants to ensure that Northland's frequently used detour routes are recognised as critical roading infrastructure and ask that it's noted where each council has a shared local road boundary (eg Cove Rd -KDC/WDC). For KDC this may also need to include local road boundaries shared with Auckland Council (Mangawhai Rd /Cames Rd - KDC/AC (feeding onto Lawrence Rd & onto Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Rd KDC)). SH1 detour onto Paparoa Oakleigh Rd is also frequently used.

KDC asked that the current condition of unsealed detour routes be noted and that NZTA recognises the added maintenance these detour routes require, for themselves, also the local councils and that future funding may be required to seal these detour routes. Local councils are the ones dealing with high amounts of service requests from ratepayers living on these detour routes. Unfortunately, as we know councils do not receive FAR for sealing unsealed roads, but I strongly believe councils should receive a FAR to assist with sealing critical detour routes, collaboration with neighbouring councils and NZTA is crucial.

Action:

1. Ensure that key detour routes are included in the resilience investigation and business case for investment.

Government Procurement Rules - Consultation (Item 7.6)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (McNally/Reid)

That the report 'Government Procurement Rules - Consultation' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 13 March 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Reviewed the government procurement rules consultation focusing on three main areas of impact on procurement strategies. Each council negotiates with NZTA on their procurement strategy. RTC agreed to prepare a high level combined submission from the road controlling authorities to address the proposed changes in procurement rules. The deadline for submissions is April 8. Noted that road controlling authorities are able to make their own submissions. The impact is any amendments NZTA makes to their policy.

Action

1. General Managers to produce a combined submission on the Government Procurement Rules for the chair of RTC to authorise and approve for submission.

Committee Members Priorities and Updates (Item 7.7)

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

Moved (Williams/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 10 March 2025, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Cr Nayar asked that this item added to the minutes Hokianga Road /Normanby (which is a state highway 12) passing through town, requires a roundabout/ traffic light. This has been pending for many years/talked about and has to be sorted out as being considered very dangerous by pedestrians/ disabled people apart of frequent near misses on regular basis. Face book link https://www.facebook.com/groups/793669218936253/?multi_permalinks=972906387679201

A number of issues were raised by KDC Rachel Williams which will be either responded to by NZTA, considered for inclusion in the next RLTP (which will be a full review) or during the development of the Northland Integrated Transport Strategy.

Action:

1. NZTA and KDC to discuss Hokianga Rd/Normanby Road offline

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm.

Unconfirmed