

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 10 February 2026, commencing at 10:30 am - 12:30pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Joe Carr
Deputy Chairperson, NRC Councillor John Blackwell
FNDC Councillor, Ann Court
KDC Councillor, Rachael Williams (online)
WDC Councillor, Brad Flower
NZTA Regional Manager - Auckland & Northland System Design, Kathryn King

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

KDC Alternate member Gordon Lambeth
FNDC Alternate Member Rachel Baucke (Ex-Officio)
NRC Alternate member Pita Tipene (online)
NRC Group Manager - Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Governance Manager, Jane Hickmott
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle
WDC GM – Infrastructure, Jim Sephton
FNDC Transportation Business Manager, Andy Brown
KDC Roding Manager, Varunesh Sinha (online joined 10.43am)
NRC Transport Manager, Chris Powell
WDC Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead, Nick Marshall
WDC Programme Manager - Road Safety Promotion, Nicole Korach
Roadsafe Northland, Ashley Johnston
FNDC Contractor, Rob Gilmore
Automobile Association, Tracey Risetto

Part Meeting

NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne (joined 11.02am)

Chaired by deputy chairman Cr Blackwell. The Chair declared the meeting open at 1030am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Flower/ Carr)

That the apologies from Eric Hennephof 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 - 9 December 2025 (Item 4.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Flower/ Court)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Amendment to be made to the December RTC minutes regarding the KiwiRail update, to clearly reflect that the interior rail yard upgrade refers to Otiria.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Court/ Carr)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Discussion on the reporting template provided to RCAs was deferred to item 6.11.

Discussed the prevalence of wet road crashes in the region after dry spells, the challenges in correlating crash data with weather patterns due to limitations in available data and differences in testing practices between NZTA and local councils., and the need for ongoing safety messaging and technical interventions.

WDC Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead provided an update indicating that the region has a higher percentage of wet road crashes (30%) compared to the national average (16%), with the increase attributed to the rural network and specific road conditions.

Noted that certain road treatments, such as mixing blue chip and limestone, can create slippery surfaces when wet, highlighting the need for careful material selection and ongoing maintenance.

Emphasised the importance of public messaging to encourage careful driving after dry periods and discussed the role of scrim testing and condition data collection in improving road safety.

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

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Blackwell / 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 22 January 2026, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: NRC Transport Manager explained that the new high-level reporting template includes links to detailed council documents, and each council is responsible for providing relevant

information to support transparency and accountability. Members confirmed that the template was a good start. Cr Flower made inquiries about how value for money could be demonstrated. Discussed the importance of referencing monitoring reports for maintenance contracts and benchmarking value for money across councils, with suggestions to use NZTA's AMP reporting and peer analysis for future improvements. RCAs were encouraged to add links to publicly available information that showed contract monitoring with reporting against this by exception.

Cr Court questioned NZTA about their plans to fully utilise their financial allocation for the Northland network, to which NZTA confirmed that their programme is on track, with updates to be provided as the year progresses.

Debated the potential return to a regional transportation model, the implications of government directives on the continued delivery of transport infrastructure and services priorities. The members agreed on the need for a workshop and discussion paper to guide future decision making and governance in regard transport in Northland. Discussed the pros and cons of returning to a regional model similar to the former Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA), with some Elected Representatives expressing satisfaction with the current arrangements and others emphasising the need for regional leadership and unity. Acknowledged that if local authorities do not propose a preferred model, the government may impose one, underscoring the urgency of proactive planning and consensus-building among councils.

FNDC is making a proposal to NZTA to reconsider their FAR rate and KDC are in the initial stages of looking at a proposal noting that they have 1200km of unsealed road vs 464km of sealed road in their network.

Actions

- 1. NRC Transport Manager and GM Community Resilience will develop a discussion paper for a workshop on the future structure of roading in Northland with the aim of developing recommendations for each council to consider and discuss internally**
- 2. NRC GM Community Resilience and NRC Transport Manager to discuss how the report can capture value for money and to discuss proposals with Roading Managers.**

NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau (Item 6.2)

Report from Kathryn King, NZTA - Regional Manager Auckland & Northland System Design

Moved (Carr/ Blackwell)

That the report 'NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau' by Kathryn King, NZTA - Regional Manager Auckland & Northland System Design and dated 17 December 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: NZTA reported on the region's response to recent intense rainfall, highlighting the resilience of state highways and ongoing efforts to address flooding and slips. Updates were given on the progress of major projects, including landowner negotiations, contract awards, and the transition to the IDC integrated delivery contract with Fulton Hogan.

NZTA outlined the rollout of the national ticketing solution and upcoming consultations on speed limit changes, with a focus on balancing community concerns and empirical evidence.

The process for reviewing funding assistance rates was discussed, with encouragement for councils to submit evidence-based proposals reflecting local challenges and deprivation indices.

Concern was raised to NZTA about the safety of the approaches to Tangowahine Bridge and other local road issues, requesting further investigation and action.

Actions

- 1. NZTA to confirm whether the old state highway northbound at Loop Road will return to two lanes and report back to the committee.**
- 2. NZTA to communicate when the transportation for the turbines for the wind farm will be to Northland**
- 3. NZTA to provide a timeline at the next RTC meeting for the traffic light installation at Otaika for pedestrians**
- 4. NZTA to consult with the RTC on proposals for speed limit changes**

Regional Road Safety Report (Item 6.3)

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

Moved (Carr/ Williams)

That the report 'Regional Road Safety Report' by, Nicole Korach, Road Safety Project Manager, dated 22 January 2026, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: It was noted that John Fagan from NZ Police is not present. WDC Programme Manager - Road Safety Promotion reported that Northland continues to show high risk in several safety categories, particularly in Kaipara and Far North, with ongoing efforts to address these issues.

A new campaign focusing on speed, in collaboration with police and ACC, will run in April and May, following a previous campaign on alcohol impairment.

Road Safety will be participating in the Northern Field Days with interactive safety exhibits and a focus on impairment, fatigue and restraints. Noted the challenges in staffing these events due to centralisation of partner agencies and the size of the WDC team.

Regional Land Transport Plan - Process (Item 6.4)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Carr/ Court)

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan - Process' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 17 December 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: NRC Transport Manager reviewed the statutory requirements, compilation process, and funding categories for the RLTP, including the importance of alignment with the Government Policy Statement (GPS) and the role of Investment Logic Mapping exercise in the process.

Discussed the project categories and explained that only those included in the National Land Transport Programme eligible for funding; prioritisation is necessary due to limited resources.

Discussed the challenge of aligning RLTP timelines with local long-term plans, especially given recent dispensations for three-year plans, and the need for parallel processes to ensure eligibility for national funding.

It was clarified that councils need to include non-prioritised projects in the RLTP even if they are unlikely to receive national funding, to establish legitimacy for seeking alternative funding sources.

The timetable is yet to be confirmed.

Actions:

- 1. A motion was passed for NRC Transport Manager to draft a letter of appreciation to NZTA to thank Steve Mutton for his significant contributions to Northland's roading and the RTC**

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

Unconfirmed