

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Transport Committee to hear submissions to the draft Nelson Regional Land Transport Plan

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

On Tuesday 10 February 2015, commencing at 9.03am

Present: Councillor E Davy (Chairperson), Her Worship the Mayor R Reese, Councillors R Copeland and B McGurk, and Raewyn Bleakley of the New Zealand Transport Agency

In Attendance: Councillors G Noonan and M Lawrey, Peter Hookam of the New Zealand Transport Agency, Group Manager Infrastructure (A Louverdis), Senior Asset Engineer – Transport and Roading (R Palmer), and Administration Adviser (S McLean)

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Confirmation of Order of Business

The Chairperson, Councillor Davy, tabled a memo to the Committee (A1310918) and spoke about regional funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

Attendance: Councillor McGurk joined the meeting at 9.06am.

Her Worship the Mayor commented on the process used to obtain community feedback on the draft Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP). She emphasised that identifying any conflict of interest in this regard was the responsibility of individual Committee members.

3. Interests

There were no updates to the Interests Register, and no interests with items on the agenda were declared.

4. Hearing of Submissions

4.1 Vikki Scott

Ms Scott urged the Committee to reduce the speed limit between Clifton Terrace School and Nelson to 70 kilometres per hour to improve safety in the area. She spoke about noise pollution on that stretch of road due to chip seal and suggested that asphalt be used. Ms Scott suggested that a car-width centre lane be created for cars turning into driveways etc. and that the double lanes heading towards Atawhai be removed.

4.2 Bill Gilbertson, Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust

Mr Gilbertson said it was crucial that cyclists be represented in the RLTP and that Nelson should be built up as a cycle friendly city. Mr Gilbertson spoke on cycling and its link to tourism and the Great Taste Trail. He said that the challenge was for Council to link existing cycleways.

Mr Gilbertson spoke about the Rocks Road walking/cycling esplanade proposal and emphasised that it needed to be useable by everyone and created with future capacity in mind. He suggested that Council should look at alternatives such as a design and build scenario due to the high costs involved.

4.3 Lindsay Wood

Mr Wood tabled and read from a document (A1311856). He raised concerns about climate change and greenhouse gases, and suggested that the draft RLTP neglected these important areas.

Mr Wood tabled a book titled The Sixth Extinction (A1317217) and a written offer of professional support (A1311991) towards the development of the RLTP.

4.4 Peter Olorenshaw, Nelsust Inc

Mr Olorenshaw spoke about congestion on Rocks Road. He said that a comparison could not be made between high car registration levels and an increase in traffic. Mr Olorenshaw suggested that Council should have a balance between roading and active transport. He also said that development along Rocks Road should be seen as a traffic and roading improvement.

Mr Olorenshaw spoke about the Southern Link, and highlighted that forecasts had shown it was not a priority in terms of reaching capacity or improving the economy, therefore the consequences were not justified.

Attendance: The meeting adjourned for morning tea from 9.49am to 10.03am.

4.5 John Gilbertson, Nelson Branch of the NZ Motel Association

In Mr Gilbertson's absence, his notes were tabled (A1312193) and councillors read through these.

4.6 Ken Beckett

Mr Beckett stressed that no funding should be allocated to Rocks Road development until the NZTA had made a decision on the Southern Link. He suggested that the RLTP could be amended at a later date once that decision had been made.

Mr Beckett spoke about a recent news article about the NZTA tendering for design for the Southern Link, which made it seem as though the project had started. He highlighted that this information was not available at the time of forming the draft RLTP.

Mr Beckett spoke about procedures that the Committee had used and raised concerns about their legality. He said that the memo tabled by Councillor Davy at the start of the meeting should have focussed on the Land Transport Management Act 2003, and had provided important information to submitters after consultation had closed.

In response to comments by councillors, Councillor Davy advised that the draft RLTP was put to the Council to approve it being sent to the NZTA, and that the Council did not have any discussion on the content of the draft RLTP.

4.7 Mike Thomas, Tahunanui Business Association Inc.

Mr Thomas raised concern about the removal of parking in Tahunanui. He said that clearways should be removed in the area, and that there were still traffic problems in places like Tahunanui Drive and Muritai Street.

Councillor Davy said that there were three years left on a four year agreement to enable Council to work on parking in the area. He said that clearways could be assessed once the agreement had expired.

4.8 Chris Allison, Bicycle Nelson Bays

Mr Allison spoke about the need for an integrated transport plan which focussed on the interconnectivity of different modes of transport. He highlighted that the increase in funding for walking and cycling did not impact other modes of transport as there was still a larger proportion of funding allocated for roading.

Mr Allison suggested that the future challenges of Nelson would be to ensure economic viability and attract young people, meaning that roads may be a lower priority in the future. He said that a walking and cycling strategy should not be prepared in isolation and needed to be considered within an overarching framework.

4.9 Paul Anderson, Waimea Road Business & Resident Association Inc

Mr Anderson said that Waimea Road was structurally unsuitable for use as an alternative highway. He showed support for the Southern Link, and added that the 'do nothing' projects that were in the Southern Link area should not have been included in RLTP.

Mr Anderson spoke about Waimea Road becoming an economic hub, and said he supported a separate cycleway alongside the Southern Link.

4.10 Allan Kneale, New Zealand Automobile Association

Mr Kneale tabled and read from a document (A1311427). He summarised concerns about the correctness of population growth figures, and detailed the projects that were supported by the New Zealand Automobile Association.

Councillor Davy thanked submitters for their contribution.

Councillor Davy asked councillors to list any items that should be brought back to the Committee through the deliberations report. Responses were:

- Detail on the Atawhai Drive speed limit, how had discussions with NZTA progressed
- An update on the walking and cycling strategy
- Details on Waimea Road as a 'living' arterial route
- Clarification on population statistics in the RLTP
- Details on the NZTA evaluation manual and analysis, and the 'do minimum' option, in relation to the Waimea Road projects
- Reference to climate change and emissions added to the draft RLTP
- Clarification on the relationship between vehicle registration numbers and traffic levels
- Detail on the data anomalies referred to in Lindsay Wood's submission (No. 23)
- Detail on the procedural concerns in Ken Beckett's submission (No. 16)
- Any information and advice that was provided direct to submitters by Council officers

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.57am.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings:

_____ Chairperson _____ Date