
Minutes of a meeting of the Nelson Regional Transport Committee

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

On Friday 6 June 2014, commencing at 1.02pm

Present: Councillor E Davy (Chairperson), Her Worship the Mayor R Reese, Councillors R Copeland and B McGurk, and J Chetwynd (NZTA)

In Attendance: Tasman District Councillor P Sangster, Nelson City Councillors I Barker and P Matheson, P Hookham, Lyndon Hammond, and A James (NZTA), Group Manager Infrastructure (A Louverdis), Senior Asset Engineer – Transport and Roading (R Palmer), Engineering Adviser (S McAuley), and Administration Adviser (E-J Ruthven)

Apology: Her Worship the Mayor R Reese for lateness

1. Apologies

Resolved

THAT the apology from Her Worship the Mayor for lateness be received and accepted.

Davy/Copeland

Carried

2. Interests

There were no updates to the Interests Register, and no interests were declared in relation to any agenda items.

3. Confirmation of Order of Business

It was noted that the item 'Chairperson's Report' had inadvertently been left off the agenda, and accordingly a procedural resolution was required for this item to be addressed at the meeting.

Resolved

THAT the Chairperson's Report be considered at this meeting as a major item not on the

agenda, pursuant to Section 46A(7)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to enable the Chairperson's Report to be received in a timely manner.

Davy/McGurk

Carried

4. Regional Transport Committee Purpose and Function

Senior Asset Engineer – Transport and Roading, Rhys Palmer, spoke about the Regional Transport Committee purpose and function, and gave a Power Point presentation (A1180381). He explained the Committee's responsibilities regarding preparation of the Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) and outlined development of this document.

NZTA Planning and Investment Manager, Peter Hookham, noted the need for the committee to maintain a strategic view. He spoke about optimised programming, and noted the need to consider the various different types of transport when balancing transport interventions.

5. Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee

Document number A1168034, agenda pages 5-12 refer.

Mr Palmer presented the report. He noted work undertaken to date towards a joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee, and suggested that this progress further once each Council had established their RLTP.

Attendance: Her Worship the Mayor joined the meeting at 1.15pm.

NZTA Regional Director, Jenny Chetwynd, encouraged the committee to consider regional objectives during the process of developing Nelson's RLTP.

There was a discussion regarding development of the RLTP. In response to a question, Mr Hookham explained that Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings were underway between Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council and Marlborough District Council officers and NZTA staff. He said that the TAG group was currently utilising the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) to develop a framework for each Council's RLTP, and suggested that each Council's committee should hold a workshop to consider this further.

Resolved

THAT the report Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee (A1168034) and its attachment (A1168673) be received.

McGurk/Copeland

Carried

Nelson Regional Transport Committee
6 June 2014

There was a discussion regarding additional advisors to the Regional Transport Committee. In response to a question, Mr Palmer explained that the 2013 amendments to the Land Transport Management Act had removed the statutory requirement for external advisors on Regional Transport Committees.

It was suggested it could be difficult for external advisors to contribute to the Committee unless their roles and delegations were clearly stated, and sufficient information was provided. It was noted that many other Regional Transport Committee had community representatives as observers at meetings, although it was also suggested that having a Police advisor to the committee could be useful.

Recommendation to Council

THAT Council approve that a formal approach be made to Tasman District Council with a view to establishing a Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee;

AND THAT Council authorises the Mayor, Chair of the Works and Infrastructure Committee and Chief Executive along with the NZ Transport Agency to finalise Terms of Reference with their Tasman District Council counterparts;

AND THAT the Draft Terms of Reference be endorsed as a basis for that discussion;

AND THAT once the Terms of Reference have been finalised, that the Chair of the Works and Infrastructure Committee be delegated to form a Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee comprising Councillors Davy, Copeland and McGurk;

AND THAT once formed that the Nelson Regional Transport Committee be disbanded.

Davy/McGurk

Carried

6. 2012/13 Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Land Transport Strategy

Document number A1181240, agenda pages 13-91 refer.

Mr Palmer presented the report, and noted that the data in the report was current to the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

In response to questions, he noted that the active transport goals were to achieve 25% of commuters walking or cycling to work by 2018. He

said that the report suggested that approximately 18%-20% of commuters were currently using active transport modes, and that a large amount of investment was currently underway through the walk/cycle/school package, which should increase the trend towards 25%.

There was a discussion regarding the traffic demand goals within the RLTS. In response to a question, Mr Palmer noted that the RLTS was developed in 2009, and consequently some of the goals could benefit from being updated. Committee members noted the need to take a regional view when considering transport strategies, and to link transport planning to land use planning was also noted in this regard.

Resolved

THAT the report 2012/13 Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Land Transport Strategy (A1181240) and its attachment (A478601) be received.

Her Worship the Mayor/Davy

Carried

7. Three Roundabouts – Saxton Field

Document number A1180401, agenda pages 92-96 refer.

Mr Palmer presented the report. He noted that further investigation into the issues regarding the three roundabouts had established that the Richmond ring route through Gladstone Road was not operating efficiently, thereby creating weaving, congestion and arterial traffic use of the local road network at the three roundabouts. He added that Tasman District Council and NZTA were currently considering how to improve efficiency through Gladstone Road, and that Nelson City Council could consider additional double-laning of Wakatu Drive through the RLTP.

Committee members discussed the Richmond-Nelson roading network. It was noted that large amounts of traffic utilising local roads was inefficient, and led to an unbalanced network. In particular, concerns were expressed regarding the level of traffic from Richmond on Main Road Stoke.

Attendance: Her Worship the Mayor left the meeting at 2.06pm.

Resolved

THAT the report Three Roundabouts – Saxton Field (A1140401) and its attachment (A1181941) be received.

Davy/Copeland

Carried

Committee members further discussed whether the three roundabouts project should be retained within the RLTP. It was noted that the project would not be removed in its entirety, but that it would not be able to occur within the 2012-2015 work programme, and would be considered in the RLTP for the 2015-2025 period.

Recommendation to Council

THAT the Three Roundabouts – Saxton Field investigation project be removed from the 2012-2015 Regional Land Transport Programme.

Davy/Copeland

Carried

8. Funding Assistance Rate Review – Joint Submission

Document number A1180382, agenda pages 97-102 refer.

Resolved

THAT the report Funding Assistance Rate Review (A1180382) and its attachment (A1156816) be received.

McGurk/Davy

Carried

Attendance: The meeting adjourned from 2.11 to 2.18pm.

9. New Zealand Transport Agency Report

Document number A1193489, agenda pages 103-111 refer.

Ms Chetwynd gave a Power Point presentation (A1203041), outlining the building blocks of the National Land Transport Programme, the outcomes of the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) review and the One Network Road Classification (ONRC).

9.1 Building Blocks of the National Land Transport Programme

Ms Chetwynd outlined the outcomes and priorities, investment and optimised programming that fed into each region's RLTP, and how these in turn drove the National Land Transport Programme. She outlined the 'journey approach' being utilised with regards to optimised programming, and noted that this provided a wider-than-regional approach to regional planning.

9.2 FAR Review

Ms Chetwynd explained that the FAR review considered the appropriate split of ratepayer funding and road user funding for each region in New Zealand. She noted that the national average split had been confirmed as 53% road users, and 47% ratepayer funding, and that in

the future, no Council would receive a FAR less than 52%. She added that one FAR would now be applied to each Council for all transport activities, rather than different FARs for different types of transport activity.

Ms Chetwynd said that, for Nelson, this generally represented an increase from an average of approximately 46% at present. She added that each Council would transition to the new FAR by 1% each year until the new levels were reached.

Committee members discussed the new FARs. It was noted that capital works in Nelson are currently funded at 53%, and it was noted that with the move to one FAR, this would drop to 47% in the 2015/16 financial year, before gradually rising again to 52%. Despite this, there was general agreement that the FAR review was positive for Nelson.

9.3 One Network Road Classification (ONRC)

Ms Chetwynd outlined the ONRC. She said that, currently, different construction standards applied on local roads throughout the country, and that the ONRC moved to make construction standards consistent. She said that the state highway network had already been classified under the ONRC, and that Councils were now being asked to classify their local roading networks, to see whether standards were currently higher or lower than the identified standards.

In response to a question, Mr Palmer explained that officers had completed an audit of Nelson's local road network, which suggested that roads were being constructed and maintained to a level likely to be commensurate with the ONRC standard. He noted that several local roads, such as Waimea Road achieved the same classification as the state highways in terms of road usage, and accordingly should be maintained to a similar standard.

Attendance: Her Worship the Mayor returned to the meeting at 2.57pm.

Committee members discussed the ONRC. It was noted that the FAR linked with the ONRC with regards to construction and maintenance of roads, but that the ONRC related to the roading asset only, rather than to all transport activities.

There was a further discussion regarding activities of the Top of the South TAG, and when governance input would feed into the outcomes and priorities identified by the TAG. Mr Hookham explained that Terms of Reference for the Top of the South TAG had recently been signed off by the Chief Executives of the three Councils. He said that it was expected that the TAG would identify regional strategic priorities in the near future, and that these would be brought back to a future Committee meeting.

It was suggested that 'TAG Activities' be included as a standing item on future Committee meeting agendas.

Resolved

THAT the New Zealand Transport Agency Report (A1193489) be received.

McGurk/Copeland

Carried

10. Building Blocks for the 15/18 National Land Transport Programme

It was noted that this item had been covered through the discussion regarding the previous item, New Zealand Transport Agency Report.

11. Funding Assistance Rate Review

It was noted that this item had been covered through the discussion regarding the previous item, New Zealand Transport Agency Report.

12. Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson said that he would ask officers to prepare a report for a future meeting, regarding any additional appropriate advisors to the committee.

He added that he had requested Councillors McGurk and Copeland to ascertain the views of the road transport industry and the aging population with regards to transport priorities. Councillor McGurk explained that the priority for the road transport industry was securing routes for freight in and out of Nelson. It was noted that Councillor Copeland would report back at the next meeting.

The Committee noted that Ms Chetwynd was moving to a different role within NZTA. They thanked her for her constructive work with the Nelson Regional Transport Committee and wished her well for her new role.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 3.25 pm.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings:

_____ Chairperson _____ Date