

Community Engagement Plan for the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15

Background

The draft Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) sets out all of the transport projects or activities proposed for the Wellington region over the next three years, what they would cost and how they would be funded.

The RLTP covers projects planned by all local councils in the region, Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington), and the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA). It includes:

- New public transport infrastructure and services
- Improved local roads and state highways
- Walking and cycling projects
- Transport planning and studies
- Road safety improvement and programmes
- Projects to assist the movement of freight.

The RLTP also identifies other significant, proposed transport projects expected to start within the next 10 years, along with a 10-year financial forecast.

The RLTP must be adopted by the end of June 2012 and is then forwarded to the NZTA as the region's 'bid' for funding from the National Land Transport Fund.

Legal requirements

The consultation requirements for the RLTP are set out in sections 18 and 18A of the amended Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) 2003. When consulting the Regional Transport Committee must act in accordance with the consultation principles set out in section 82 and use the special consultation procedure under sections 83, 87(2)(a) and 89 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The amended LTMA 2003 also sets the requirement that the following must be consulted:

- Every affected regional council
- Every affected territorial authority
- Every affected approved public organisation
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Commissioner of Police
- Affected district health boards
- Accident Compensation Corporation
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust
- KiwiRail Ltd.
- Representative groups of land transport users and providers (including coastal shipping)
- Affected communities
- Māori of the region
- Public of the region.

Community engagement timeframes

Action	Organisation	When
Proposed RLTP to RTC for approval	RTC	9 March
Adopt community engagement plan	RTC	9 March
Appoint hearing subcommittee	RTC	9 March
Public notices in newspapers	GWRC	24 March
Formal submission process runs	RTC	26 March – 4 May
Hearing of submissions	RTC hearing subcommittee	28 May
Final draft RLTP to RTC for approval	RTC	22 June

Target audiences

The key audiences are:

- Required parties identified in the Land Transport Management Act
- Other interested parties and individuals identified through prior Regional Land Transport Strategy / Programme consultative processes
- Residents and businesses of the region
- Road users – motorists, road transport operators, cyclists, pedestrians
- Public transport operators and users

Objectives

- To ensure people know about the draft RLTP and how they can get more information and know how to make submissions
- To receive a good level of feedback on the draft RLTP from organisations and individuals

Key messages

- The proposed programme of transport projects for the Wellington region for the next three years is now available
- Have your say on the proposed programme
- You have until Friday 4 May 2012 to give your feedback

Community engagement tools

There will be a formal consultation process on the proposed RLTP. Written submissions will be invited, people will be able to fill out a feedback form in the summary document and online.

Submitters will have the opportunity to present their submissions orally.

The following tools will be used to engage with the community:

- Letters to key parties
We will communicate directly with the required parties identified in the Land Transport Management Act and other identified interested organisations and individuals. Greater Wellington has a database of interested parties from previous transport-related consultation processes. Each party in the database will receive a covering letter, a copy of the proposed RLTP and a summary document.

- **Summary document mailout**
A proposed RLTP summary document will be mailed out to every household in the Wellington region in conjunction with Greater Wellington’s LTP summary document. It will also be sent to public libraries and other relevant organisations.

- **Public notices**
Public notices calling for submissions and hearing notices will be published in the Dominion Post, the Wairarapa Times Age and some community papers.

- **Web page**
Greater Wellington will provide a webpage on behalf of the Regional Transport Committee. This webpage will include an online submission form, along with the full proposed programme, the summary document and any other background documents. Links to this page will be posted on territorial authority, NZTA and Metlink websites.

- **Social media**
Postings about the proposed RLTP and links to more information will be placed on Greater Wellington’s Facebook page, and tweets will be sent via Greater Wellington’s and Metlink Twitter sites. Facebook postings and tweets from individuals and organisations will be responded to in a helpful and timely manner.

- **Mainstream media coverage**
A media release will be issued when the proposed RLTP is first made public, followed up by specific local media releases and one announcing the beginning of the formal consultation process. It’s proposed that the Chair of the RTC act as the overall spokesperson for the proposed RLTP. For those activities that are the responsibility of an individual organisation, the appropriate spokespeople will be responsible for public comment.

During the formal consultation process media coverage could involve letters to the editor, news stories and opinion pieces prompted by various advocates. Responses to these will be decided on an individual basis.

Following the close of formal submissions there is likely to be media coverage of the key results of the submission process and adoption of the RLTP.

- **Meetings with interested parties and individuals**
Relevant Greater Wellington staff will be available to talk with any interested organisations and individuals. An offer will be extended to territorial authorities for the project group to attend Council meetings if desired.