

# Minutes

## Regional Transport Committee (RTC)

Date: 23 March 2021  
Time: 3.00 - 4.05pm  
Venue: 20 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, Auckland and via Microsoft Teams  
Committee: Adrienne Young-Cooper, Chair  
Attendees: Wayne Donnelly  
Tommy Parker  
Abbie Reynolds  
Kylie Clegg  
Mary-Jane Daly  
Dr Jim Mather  
Steve Mutton (as delegate for Nicole Rosie)

Attendees: Shane Ellison – Chief Executive Officer  
Andrew Downie – Governance Lead  
Wally Thomas – EGM Stakeholder, Communities and Communication  
Jenny Chetwynd – EGM Planning and Investment  
Hamish Bunn – Group Manager Investment, Planning and Policy  
Mark Fleming – Principal Advisor  
Andrew Bell – Consultant  
Tamarisk Sutherland – Governance Specialist  
  
Todd Niall – Senior Auckland Affairs Journalist, Stuff

Item	Topic	Update / Actions	Responsible
1	Welcome / Acknowledgements		

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	The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. Dr Jim Mather led the karakia.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Darren Linton Gwyneth MacLeod Nicole Rosie	
<b>3</b>	<b>Interest Register – Declarations/Conflicts</b>	
	None to report.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	None to report.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Approval of Draft Regional Transport Committee Minutes – 25 February 2021</b>	
	The minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record. (Dr Mather   Ms Reynolds): Carried.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Address from Councillor Darby</b>	
	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor Chris Darby (Chair, Auckland Council Planning Committee) and invited him to address the committee. Councillor Darby was joined by Councillor Josephine Bartley (Deputy Chair, Planning Committee).</p> <p>Councillor Darby addressed the RTC on the draft Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP). Key elements of Councillor Darby’s address included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That he and Councillor Bartley were representing the Planning Committee and their comments on the draft RLTP.</li> <li>• That the Planning Committee’s decision to provide an indicative approval for the Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP) had been a difficult one.</li> <li>• That the RTC has a unique statutory responsibility regarding the RLTP.</li> <li>• The Planning Committee’s concerns that whilst committing significant expenditure, the draft RLTP will not address the impacts of climate change from the transport system</li> <li>• That equitable access to transport is of high importance.</li> <li>• Appealed to the RTC to be open to making changes to the draft RLTP once the public has been consulted.</li> <li>• The relationship between Auckland Council and Auckland Transport is critical - not just in terms of transportation but how Auckland is shaped.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Planning Committee realises that the RLTP is not the sole lever to effect transformational change in addressing climate change but ask the RTC to carefully consider the feedback it receives during consultation on these issues, and to find other pathways and levers to reduce emissions and recommend these to council.</li> <li>Auckland Council wishes to work with the Board of Auckland Transport to set up a group focussed on reducing transport emissions.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Bartley also briefly addressed the committee on the draft RLTP, with her comments focussed on the importance of transport equity and delivering to climate change commitments.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Councillor Darby and Councillor Bartley for their attendance and contribution.</p>	
<b>Items for Approval</b>		
<b>7</b>	<b>Approval of the Draft 2021-2031 RLTP for Public Consultation</b>	
	<p>The Chair explained the recommendations to be considered.</p> <p>The EGM Planning and Investment then presented the draft RLTP and explained the process behind the document's creation. Key highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drafting the RLTP has been completed over an 18 month period, working collaboratively with Auckland Council (as recommended by the report of the independent panel in the Council Controlled Organisation review), Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency and KiwiRail.</li> <li>Unlike ATAP, the RLTP is a statutory document which needs the endorsement of the RTC followed by approval by the Auckland Transport Board.</li> <li>It has been drafted as a response to the transport challenges faced and is a programme of activities and for the first time, also a programme of policy shifts.</li> <li>Whilst the Auckland Transport Board is not a party to ATAP, both the RTC and the Board have provided policy direction to the ATAP process.</li> <li>The draft RLTP must be and is aligned with council's Long Term Plan and the Regional Fuel Tax.</li> <li>Significant time has been invested with the RTC and Auckland Council's Planning Committee over recent months as the draft RLTP has been prepared.</li> <li>The RTC will consider public submissions on the draft RLTP, which is an important part of the process.</li> </ul>	



	<p>The EGM Planning and Investment passed to Mr Bunn, who provided further detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The programme has been well canvassed and is a \$36 billion investment by Government and the people of Auckland and provides a number of positive outcomes. The RLTP will:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ offer a step change in the Rapid Transit Network;</li><li>○ support delivery of the City Rail Link, including purchase of rolling stock;</li><li>○ complete the Eastern Busway;</li><li>○ deliver Connected Communities;</li><li>○ deliver 200km of safe cycling infrastructure over 10 years;</li><li>○ execute on safety initiatives saving 1,700 deaths and serious injuries over a 10 year period;</li><li>○ provide funding for renewals and allocations for growth; and</li><li>○ support delivery of spatial priorities and community projects (including the Community Connect discount offering to improve access to public transport).</li></ul></li><li>• There are limitations to what is proposed, including the impacts of a projected 22% increase in Auckland's population during the 10 year period covered by the draft RLTP and the associated impacts this has on congestion. The benefits on mitigating the impacts of climate change are also not as strong as hoped.</li><li>• Risks include public concerns around the scale of change proposed. There is also a clear need to advocate and influence stakeholders where they can assist with effecting change.</li><li>• Some projects may not be able to proceed due to funding uncertainties.</li><li>• \$1.8 billion of proposed seed funding for the Auckland Light Rail project is not included in the RLTP.</li><li>• The statutory date for the RLTP to be finalised is 30 June 2021.</li></ul> <p>Discussion ensued with the following questions/comments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The committee was pleased to see the continued focus on equitable access to transport.</li><li>• Feedback from the consultation process will be reported back to the committee via a substantial report. This will be categorised by theme and geographic segment and include specifics around public comment and a recommended response.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee asked that consideration be given to how the consultation can reach as broad a representation of the community as possible to ensure feedback is balanced and representative.</li> <li>• The EGM, Stakeholder, Communities and Communication confirmed a multiple channel community engagement process had been developed. This will include significant engagement with mana whenua and the Independent Māori Statutory Board on transport outcomes for Māori.</li> <li>• The Chief Executive advised that Auckland Transport is seeking advice from the Minister for Climate Change to ascertain how the RLTP will align with the targets set by the Climate Commission.</li> <li>• In response to a query from the Chair on what power the committee has to delete, amend, increase or reduce anything in the draft RLTP (particularly anything that will follow through to the National Land Transport Fund), the EGM Planning and Investment advised that legal advice would be sought and provided to the committee at the next meeting. Advice will also be sought on whether the plan could be reviewed by the committee in a period shorter than the standard three year horizon.</li> <li>• Answers to the above questions will be provided in a public forum.</li> </ul> <p>The RTC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. approved the attached Draft Auckland RLTP 2021-31 for public consultation, noting minor changes will continue to be made to it prior to public release to reflect RTC feedback, and for clarity and consistency purposes.</li> <li>ii. endorsed the proposed approach to public consultation on the draft –RLTP, planned to take place between 29 March and 2 May 2021;</li> <li>iii. delegated to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the AT Board the approval of the final draft RLTP for release, and approval of the Statement of Proposal required under Section 83 of the Local Government Act for consultation purposes.</li> <li>iv. noted that following consultation, the draft final RLTP will be presented back to the RTC at a meeting planned for 27 May 2021 where the committee will consider any amendments to the document and recommend it to Council for endorsement and the AT Board for formal approval.</li> </ol> <p>Mr Donnelly   Mrs Young-Cooper: Carried.</p>	
8	<b>General Business</b>	
	No items for general business were noted.	



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	The meeting concluded at 4.05pm.	
Next Meeting - 29 April 2021		

