

NRC Regional Transport Committee meeting – 1st August 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got underway at 1000hrs.

Chairman John Bain welcomed all for attending with a special welcome to Ms Vivienne Shepherd, explaining that the policeman present, Inspector Marty Ruth, Northland Road Policing manager and Safety and Security representative was on this committee and not there to ensure she behaved at the meeting. Vivienne thanked him for his comments. *All done in good humour!*

John Bain continued and explained the emergency procedures and exits and restroom facilities that were available. Emergency meeting area was in the car park.

Apologies (Item No 1) were received for Mr Wayne Linton, Kaipara District Council representative and Mr Steve Westgate, Environmental Sustainability representative, who had been granted leave.

At 1001hrs it was **Item No 2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**. The chair stated that any 'Conflicts of Interest' were to be advised item by item as they progressed through the agenda and any appropriate action to be taken.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Time now 100hrs and **Item No. 3.1**. Minutes of Regional Transport Committee Meeting 6 June 2012 (Pages1-6)
Page by page the minutes were checked and any questions could be raised.
This item was accepted and no discussion was required.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

Item No. 4.1. Turning Northland Rail into a Sustainable Business – Mr Kelvin Taylor (Pages7-8) (1002hrs) Kelvin gave a power point presentation which had been part of his studies towards a bachelor of Business Management at North Tec. Some very interesting pints were raised.

[Link](#) to Kelvin's report - Turning Northland Rail into a Self-Sustaining Business.
Well worth a read if you are interested in Rail in Northland.

Mr Tony Norman, Public Health representative, joined the meeting at 1004hrs.
Mr Ken Rintoul, Economic Development representative, claimed Management of Rail is the 'Key to Rail'. They may have to contract out the management of rail to get it to work or have they changed their mindset?

Mr Wayne Brown, Far North District Council Mayor, advised that 'there is no sales department in Kiwi Rail. Is it too much of a gone-bye era or is it a bull shit thing? Do the ratepayer's have to fund a sales department for dud companies?'

John Bain confirmed that they can change some of the facts but it is hard to change attitudes.

On to **5.0 INFORMATION REPORTS**

Item No. 5.1. Northland Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-2012 - Funding Uptake (Pages 9-16) (1018hrs)

Chris Powell, Transport Operations Senior Programme Manager gave a brief on the program.

John Bain informed as there were time constraints on today's meeting they were going to have a workshop after this meeting to discuss further points of this item.

Item No. 5.2. 30 Year Transport Strategy – Draft Monitoring Report (Pages 17-38) (1025hrs)
Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager, gave some added details regarding this item.

Wayne Brown had a couple of queries regarding highway issues up North.

Vaughan Cooper advised that they had held a workshop where they had looked at priorities for projects.

Item No. 5.3. North Auckland Line: Social Impact Assessment (Pages 39-72) (1028hrs)

Mr Rawson Wright, Cultural Interests representative, claimed he was disappointed with the report; details such as, how many were employed at present, how many will lose their jobs if North Auckland Line rail closes and how many will it employ if it goes ahead?

Wayne Brown asked if they had been made aware of the report they had just received.

Vaughan Cooper advised that NIF (Northland Inter-sectoral Forum) hadn't had the formal presentation of Kelvin's presentation as yet.

Tony Norman found it strange, that with the figures that have been quoted, Auckland and Tauranga appeared to be sitting on their hands. He also found the statement, "less than minor reductions in death..." (Page 40), strange that it was not a road safety issue.

John Bain informed that a lot of roads won't take the loads projected and road safety may then become an issue.

Ken Rintoul, in his normal wisdom, claims 'If you want to be serious about rail, put a working group together and take it to the minister and cut out all the fluffy stuff'.

NRC Chairman, Craig Brown confirmed, your comments Ken are cutting to the chase and if we are serious we need to do something. Regional Council is serious; having bought land and made the designated link to the port.

Ken Rintoul advised that they must take ownership, come up with a good business plan which should take about 6 months, then they need to get really serious.

Mr Greg Martin, Whangarei District Council representative, commented that they need to keep their feet on the ground and look at the economics of it; it's not viable to cart lime from Hikurangi to Portland. He continued that they didn't want another study with a predetermined outcome. *Wake up Greg; you are over the fence now at the NRC, not sitting at the WDC with the 'pre-determinations'*

Craig Brown confirmed that this needed the backing of council with a desire to see economic growth in Northland with choices of modes of transport. We have been working on it since about 1972 and now need to get on with it.

Moved: Ken Rintoul, Seconded: Rawson Wright

It was now **6.0 DECISION REPORTS**

Item No. 6.1. Northland Regional Road Safety Action Plan 2012-2015 (Pages 73-96) (1040hrs)

Ian Crayton-Brown, NRC Transport Projects Officer gave some details of this item.

Report is well worth a read.

Ian wanted to recognize the police for the information they had shared; what they supply reiterates what we are doing. He also thanked ACC and Northland Health for their information supplied also. Bringing all their data together paints a picture about what we are doing as partnerships in road safety to reduce deaths in Northland. There were 7 deaths in Northland last year which was a record low; now we are two ahead of last year at present. He advised they had added a '12th issue' on page 82, which was 'Young Drivers'. He added that their figures were consistent with national figures.

Mr Howeth Mountain, Access and Mobility representative, had nothing to add but confirmed it was always changing; we can see what's happening and report every 3 or 6 months about it. Tony Norman felt that 'injuries' should be mentioned in the report.

Ian Crayton-Brown advised that he was working with the Northland District Health Board to get more up to date data regarding 'hospitalisation data'. ACC was also giving data re injuries and injury claims. There was a big set of tools working together behind this document, to produce up to date statistics.

Wayne Brown advised that non-compliance and lawlessness doesn't come into these figures and that's an issue of low levels on compliance, as he had witnessed in his area of Northland.

Greg Martin commented that a lot of problems are personal responsibilities; if you don't drink, you want get caught DIC. It's an education thing.

Cr Joe Carr noticed that the figures on page 86 were for over the last 5 years; he would like to see some more up to date statistics.

Craig Brown had a query (Page 86) re 'road factor'.

Mr Howeth Mountain gave some clarification in regards to this.

Wayne Brown had issues with 30KPH signs being left out all the time even when works were not being carried out. They were endeavoring to educate contractors about this problem as people tend to ignore them when there are no works occurring.

Chris Powell advised this was all historical gathered information and they now had 11 or 12 areas we need to direct our efforts into.

Ken Rintoul claimed it was interesting to note that 90-100 year olds are the safest drivers.

There may well be something in that; Live longer and you will get better.

John Bain closed the meeting at 1058hrs thanking all for attending advising committee members they would have a short break then have the workshop as discussed earlier.

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Northland Regional Council website by clicking on this [link](#).