

NRC Regional Transport Committee meeting –7th August 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got underway at 1000hrs.

Chair John Bain welcomed all for attending today's meeting.

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

Item No 1 Apologies. There were no apologies.

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 would be decided by the Committee.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Time now 1003hrs and **Item No. 3.1.** Confirmation of Minutes - 5 June 2013 (Page 1)

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Greg Martin, Whangarei District Council representative.

Page by page the minutes were checked with the opportunity for any questions to be raised.

Mr Steve McNally, Far North District Council representative, referring to an item on page 4 (Item 4.1) advised that he was not present for the discussions that were about bridges in the Far North.

John Bain explained that they are aware of the bridges but were waiting for a few things they need for the Far North.

Mr Steve McNally asked 'who is dealing with it and is there specific information required?'

John Bain gave some explanation about waiting for information.

Mr Steve McNally claimed 'you say you will talk after the meeting; that doesn't appear in the minutes'.

John Bain advised the issue had been dealt with in previous minutes.

Mr Peter Winder, Kaipara District Council representative queried the process of information forth coming from the Territorial Authorities.

He was given some details.

John Bain advised the meeting that there was a Supplementary item 4.2 - Update on the Puhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance, they wished to be tabled.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Greg Martin.

The item was tabled to be discussed later in today's meeting.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

Item No. 4.1. State Highway One / Loop Road Investigation (Page 7) (1007hrs)

Mr Stephen Town NZ Transport Agency representative introduced Mr Sebastian Reed, NZTA Transport Planner, to the meeting. Sebastian Reed gave a power point presentation on the 'options' for State Highway One/ Loop Road North and South plus SH1 / Portland Road intersections.

There were questions by CEO Malcolm Nicholson and Cr Greg Martin.

Mr Peter Winder had questions regards Option 1.

John Bain asked Sebastian 'where to from here?'

Sebastian Reed advised NZTA will keep monitoring the intersections.

Mr Steve McNally asked about the claims there have been no increases in traffic volumes. There was some debate about the Far North expectations of increasing volumes of heavy traffic with forestry.

Cr Joe Carr made comments about the Mangakahia Road route and with the improvements it would get traffic using it rather than State Highway One. He advised 'the only problem with this project is, it's not in Auckland'. *I reckon Joe is possibly correct; if it was the funding would be available.*

Cr Greg Martin thanked Sebastian Reed for the work he had done on this project and also for this informative presentation.

Time now 1041hrs **Item No. 4.2.** Supplementary item - Update on the Puhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance

Mr Sebastian Reed, NZTA Transport Planner introduced Mr Mark Edmonds, NZTA Delivery Manager, Further North Alliance to the meeting before his presentation.

Before Mark Edmonds gave a power point show, Mr Sebastian Reed advised that NZTA was focusing on getting the designation for the project by next August.

Mark Edmonds went through the process to date of the Puhoi to Warkworth designation.

There were new on and off ramps planned for Puhoi plus a northern access for Warkworth.

There were to be public submissions in October/November 2013 and these would be carried out in a 20 day submission period.

More information was available at www.nzta.govt.nz/puhoi-wellsford

Cr Joe Carr required projected finish dates for the Warkworth and Wellsford legs.

Mark Edmonds advised that the Puhoi to Wellsford section was subject to the availability of funding and it was proposed to be a five year project and could be underway in 2015 to a 2020 completion of that leg.

John Bain asked if there was a possibility of Warkworth and Wellsford bypasses being done now and linked to main project at later dates.

Mark Edmonds informed the meeting that they were focused on the Puhoi to Warkworth leg at this stage.

Mr Steve McNally asked if they (NZTA) understood what Northlands issues are. He suggested they carry out an investigation to resolve the Northland issues. We are about exporting produce not just moving people.

There was no real suggestion of focus on rail upgrades to Northland which would ease heavy transport in the region.

Sebastian Reed advised that the Wellsford to Whangarei section has a strategy study underway looking at route security, safety and freight needs.

Mr Stephen Town NZ Transport Agency representative thanked those around the table for supporting the submissions for the Puhoi to Warkworth project.

John Bain said 'the reality is we are pretty close to Auckland'

On to **5.0 INFORMATION REPORTS**

Time now 1108hrs and **Item No. 5.1.** Northland Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015 - Funding Uptake (Page 9)

John Bain advised that this was really just an advice item but asked if there were any questions.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson put a question to the committee about better utilization of funding. Chris Powell, Transport Operations Senior Programme Manager gave details to support the information tabled.

Malcolm Nicholson claimed he was keen to hear from the District Councils about what they want from funding.

Mr Peter Winder (Kaipara) advised that they had placed things on hold until historical rates had been collected. *What a sound decision on that particular matter, facing them in Kaipara.*

Mr Steve McNally (Far North) informed they had concerns of safety issues and heavy vehicles on bridges in their district. *Yes, this has certainly been a focus in the Far North with all those bridges that need upgrading.*

Cr Greg Martin (Whangarei) advised that they have to work within their budgets; they have just built a bridge and need to get over it. *Does that mean they are going to consider budgets and not just keep increasing the debt burden, as has previously occurred?*

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Mr Peter Winder.

Item No. 5.2. Regional Road Safety Update (Page 16) (1115hrs)

Chris Powell gave some details to the report.

He advised how they had conducted checks for truckies at Uretiti. 236 trucks had been stopped and the drivers had undertaken voluntary health checks. Read the article on page 25 in the agenda. *What a great initiative.*

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Mr Steve McNally.

Time now 1117hrs and **Item No. 5 .3.** Land Transport Management Act Amendments - Moving Forward (Page 26)

Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager advised this report was about amendments to the Act.

Vaughan also described the changes to the committee structure and how a new Regional Land Transport Plan deletes some other Acts. Vaughan also discussed the timeframes for the planning documents as outlined on page 28. The committee membership and the legal advice obtained about it was also discussed.

Mr Peter Winder had a couple of suggestions to the committee; one was he felt letters of thanks should go to the vacating members and another issue he raised.

Vaughan Cooper confirmed what Peter had said as it was exactly the ideas in the plan.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson confirmed that is why we need inter council working together. The recommendation with the amendment that Peter Winder suggested that letters go out was accepted.

Moved: Mr Peter Winder, Seconded: John Bain.

Time now 1129hrs and **Item No. 5 .4.** Dust Related Problems on Unsealed Roads of Northland - Update (Page 30)

John Bain gave some details and thanked WDC Council Roding Manager, Jeff Divine for the assistance he had given with this issue. There was between 115-120 houses that were substantially affected during our dry summer periods. They had met with many in regards this issue. What they needed now were policy suggestions from NORTEG (Northland Technical Advisory Group) to be before them before the next dry period at the end of the year. *It appears this should be happening now, so all policies are prepared and ready for implementation before the dry spell.*

Chris Powell in reference to page 31 gave details of the meeting held. *What is concerning is that the agenda reads there were no Members of Parliament from the National Party present at the meeting. They should be as they presently hold the purse strings; so is the message they don't wish to assist with this serious problem?*

John Bain asked Stephen Town the NZ Transport Agency representative, if funding was still available from the 'T Fund' for this issue.

Stephen Town advised that currently government was trying to get rid of the 'T Funding'. He would raise it with the board next month. He suggested that WDC CEO, Mark Simpson should be briefed on this. Stephen continued with "Is this your No 1 priority for Northland?" There was more discussion.

I take it from Stephen Town's question, that it may not be the 'priority' and perhaps they, NZTA, believe there are more important issues to address in Northland. But that's just my opinion from sitting at the back listening, watching and learning.

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: John Bain.

John asked if there was any general business anyone wished to be discussed; there was none so John Bain closed the meeting at 1145hrs thanking all for attending.

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