



Report 09.439  
Date 17 July 2009  
File TP/03/17/05

Committee Regional Transport  
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## Programme for review of the Wairarapa Corridor Plan

### 1. Purpose

This report sets out the proposed programme for the upcoming review of the Wairarapa Corridor Plan for the Committee's approval.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

The Wairarapa Corridor, for the purpose of our regional transport planning, is defined as: State Highway 2 from Upper Hutt over the Rimutaka Hill through to Mount Bruce north of Masterton; and the Wairarapa railway line from Upper Hutt through to Wairarapa; State Highway 53 between Featherston and Martinborough.

The current Wairarapa Corridor Plan was adopted in December 2003. It is one of four corridor plans that sets out the issues and needs in each corridor, and identified transport projects to address those needs. The Wairarapa Corridor Plan was the first plan, alongside the Hutt Corridor Plan, to be adopted. It is now due to be reviewed to reflect changes that have occurred in the past 6 years. A review process for the Hutt Corridor Plan will be reported to the Committee at the next meeting.

The review of the existing Wairarapa Corridor Plan will:

- Ensure alignment of the plan with the strategic direction provided by the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007 – 2016.
- Update the plan to take account of any new trends, information, transport studies and land use policies relevant to this corridor.

## **4. Comment**

### **4.1 Scope of Review**

This corridor forms an important component of our regional transport network, providing access both within Wairarapa and between Wairarapa and our other regional centres, including the Wellington City CBD.

The Wairarapa corridor accommodates lesser traffic volumes and trip making, and is less complex than the other transport corridors in the region. The scope of the review is expected to reflect this.

The existing corridor plan identifies a number of planned improvements for the first ten years and the following ten years. Many of the projects identified to progress in the first ten years have now been partially or fully implemented.

The focus of the review is therefore likely to be determining whether those projects identified as beyond ten years in the existing plan are still relevant, whether they should be brought forward, and whether any other projects or initiatives are required to address recently emerging issues.

Greater Wellington officers will work with a Technical Working Group made up of officers from the affected local councils, the New Zealand Transport Agency and other organisations and interest groups to develop a draft Wairarapa Corridor Plan for consultation. This work will be conducted between August and December 2009.

### **4.2 Consultation**

The Committee is not required to follow the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 in relation to any corridor plan review because they are not statutory documents required by any legislation.

While the development of corridor plans must follow the general principles of consultation set out in Section 82 of the LGA, the Committee has discretion about the scale and scope of consultation.

Given recent feedback about consultation fatigue, the consultation approach will focus on identifying key stakeholders with an interest in this transport corridor and communication methods of most relevance to Wairarapa and Upper Hutt communities and interest groups.

## 5. Key steps

The key steps and expected time frames for the Wairarapa Corridor Plan update are shown in the following table.

Key step	RTC Decision	Timing
Process report to RTC (this report)	Agrees to the process	5 August 2009
Initial key stakeholder issue identification meetings		August 09
Background issues report developed		September 09
Draft Corridor Plan developed (including Technical Working Group meetings as required)		Oct/Nov 09
Consultation Plan	Adopt consultation plan	2 December 09
RTC considers the draft corridor plan and releases for consultation	Adopt draft corridor plan for consultation	2 December 09
Preparation of consultation materials and consultation		Jan/Feb 2010
Hear submissions (Hearings Subcommittee if required)		March 2010
Approval	Adopt new corridor plan	May 2010

## 6. Communication

Greater Wellington's officers will engage with key stakeholders, primarily through the Technical Working Group, when developing the updated corridor plan.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives the report.**
2. **Notes the content of the report.**
3. **Agrees to the process and timeframe set out in sections 4 and 5.**

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