
CHAIR'S REVIEW – TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report

This report outlines the Transport and Urban Development Committee programme up till June 2014.

2. Recommendations

The Chair recommends that the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*

3. The Purpose of the Committee

The focus of the Committee is:

- to direct growth to where the benefits are greatest and where adverse effects are minimised, and to deliver a quality compact urban environment
- to lead and monitor a safe, efficient and sustainable transport system that supports Wellington's economy and adds to residents' quality of life with a strong focus on improving cycling and public transport and enhancing Wellington's walkability.

The Committee has responsibility for the Wellington Waterfront, the District Plan (Including Resolution of Appeals), Heritage, Development control, Building control, Housing affordability / Housing Accord, Earthquake strengthening, Public spaces (urban) and Transport and Parking.

4. The Focus up till June 2014

In the eight month period since the October 2013 election the Committee has included progressing some major projects within the city. This has included:

Urban Development

- Site 10 Kumutoto - There was public consultation on the proposal from Wellington Waterfront and the committee heard oral submissions and approved the Preliminary Concept Design for Site 10.

- Progressing District Plan appeals
- Notifying District Plan Change 78
- Approving Letters of Expectation, then Draft and (today) final Statements of Intent for CCOs (WCCL and WWL)
- Making a Submission on EQP buildings Amendment Bill. The submission generally supports the intent of the legislation but raises concerns about a number of aspects. We consider Government should take a greater role in helping building owners. We are expected to present to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee in June on the Bill. In addition Council has submitted a remit to LGNZ's AGM to place this on the LGNZ work programme.
- Approving Grants from Built Heritage Incentive Fund
- Making decisions related to Memorial Park
- Receiving a Report on progress on Medium Density Housing areas
- Receiving Warrant of Fitness field trials report
- Earthquake resilience programme – requesting further work on District Plan changes to balance heritage and safety, and to rank heritage buildings
- Receiving Quarterly reports

Transport

- Parking enforcement - Approving bringing parking in house following a tender process
- Central City Speed limits - Establishing a subcommittee which has heard oral submissions on proposed speed limits
- Approving an Accord with NZTA. This reinforces our partnership on transport matters going forward. This is a significant step forward in this relationship to help ensure the joint outcomes are more effectively achieved.
- Making a Submission on Funding Assistance Rates to NZTA. This was preceded by myself attending an LGNZ Forum on FAR rates. This is a major issue especially for rural and provincial authorities. Our submission outlined the desire for WCC to act in the best interests of New Zealand and the region rather than adopt a Wellington centric approach.
- Making a Submission on Draft Regional Passenger Transport Plan. This was preceded by several meetings with GWRC and by a comprehensive GWRC presentation and Q and A session for councillors. Our submission focussed on the need to grow patronage and consider reducing fare levels, the future of the trolley buses, and generally supported the planned new route structure.
- Public Transport Spine Study - response to RTC recommendations including appointing the Mayor and myself to the Governance group to progress the Spine work
- Agreeing kerbside lane option for the first section of the Island Bay to City Cycleway – Shorland Park to Wakefield Park
- Receiving Quarterly reports

The Committee has also received a number of briefings including:

- Council Urban Design projects - we received a briefing on the urban design programme and the development of the E-Plan.
- Presentation by NZTA on the Hutt Valley to Wellington cycleway/walkway (the Great Harbour Way). This included how it could also address resiliency issues
- Presentation by NZTA on Petone - Grenada Link Road Project prior to this project going out for public consultation. NZTA received some 1600 submissions. As chair I attended several meetings with Northern Ward councillors with various northern suburbs communities. Following submissions the Regional Transport Committee has agreed to senior officials from NZTA and the relevant councils reviewing the best way of delivering the project
- Presentation by GWRC on the Regional Passenger Transport Plan as noted above
- Presentations by CCOs - Wellington Waterfront and Wellington Cable Car

5. Chair and Portfolio Leaders work

In addition to the above issues at committee I have had a large number of meetings as Chair. In addition to meetings with Council officers and relevant CCOs. these have included regular meetings with key partner organisations notably NZTA and GWRC, transport advocacy groups, heritage and property organisations, transport providers, heritage building owners and property groups. Cr Pannett as Buildings Portfolio Leader has also been fully involved in the heritage and property meetings. We have also worked together with officers in trying to assist owners of some of the more challenging buildings.

Cr Pannett has also continued to progress work on resolving leaky building issues.

I have attended a forum on Electric Vehicles, and made a Conference presentation on our Transport and Urban Development strategies over the past 20 odd years.

There have also been several meetings of the Safe and Sustainable Transport Reference Group.

There has been a public meeting on plans for Johnsonville roading, and several meetings on Island Bay's cycleway. The Panel process initially faced some hurdles but is now underway.

Crs Pannett and Young as ward councillors and myself as Chair have worked with officers to convene meetings with Tinakori Road businesses to successfully resolve an impasse over urban design proposals. Officers are now working on delivering an agreed design.

6. The Key Focus for the next six months

While there is still considerable work ahead to further the work on the above projects, the next six months will include other significant transport and urban development projects.

The progress of the Basin Reserve and Memorial Park developments will continue to be monitored and there are expected to be decisions required on budget impacts and implementing mitigation measures, and there will be major opportunities to develop the Adelaide Road and Kent and Cambridge Terrace boulevards. Memorial Park needs to be complete for the commemoration of Gallipoli on Anzac day 2015.

There are a range of significant transport projects on the horizon including the Petone to Grenada link road, Mt Victoria and potentially Terrace Tunnel duplication, the Inner City Bypass improvements and the development of the Public Transport Spine. These projects will require some challenging decisions to be made and resource allocation to be prioritised.

The Committee will be providing input into the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015/25, and will consider additional Cycling initiatives.

The Transport and Urban Development Strategy (Wellington Spatial Plan) will be considered. This aims to integrate the transport, urban design strategies and the district plan into a cohesive framework. The Committee will consider the urban design/streetscape improvements to Taranaki Street and Kent/Cambridge Terraces. This is important as part of the processional routes to Memorial Park. The Adelaide Road Framework Plan will be reviewed and there are some business as usual policy reviews including the review of Transport Policies and the Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy.

Earthquake resilience work will be progressed. There will be some very important decisions to be made on earthquake prone buildings, and the relationship to heritage buildings.

Councillor Andy Foster

Chair – Transport and Urban Development Committee