



Minute of Decision

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Auckland Governance: Regional Transport Authority

Portfolio: Transport

On 24 August 2009, following reference from the Cabinet Committee on Implementation of Auckland Governance Reforms (AGR), Cabinet:

Background

- 1 **noted** that on 6 April 2009, Cabinet:
 - 1.1 agreed in principle to the consolidation of responsibility for all local authority transport functions under the proposed Regional Transport Authority;
 - 1.2 invited the Minister of Transport to report back with detailed advice on the implications of including local roading functions within the Regional Transport Authority, particularly during the transition period;

[CAB Min (09) 12/7]
- 2 **noted** that:
 - 2.1 on 30 July 2009, AGR agreed that further investigation of integrated planning, including a regional spatial plan and regional infrastructure investment plan, be included in Phase Two of the resource management reforms [AGR Min (09) 5/1];
 - 2.2 legislative change relating to the above is unlikely before 2011, and that therefore the paper under CAB (09) 476 assumes that the existing planning instruments will apply when the Auckland Council is established;
- 3 **noted** that transport accounts for approximately 54 percent of rates revenue and 30 percent of total Auckland local authority revenue when user-charges, investments, and subsidies from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZ Transport Agency) are included;

Transport governance options

- 4 **noted** that five high-level transport governance options have been considered:
 - 4.1 Option One: Auckland Council;
 - 4.2 Option Two: Auckland Council and a Regional Transport Authority;

- 4.3 Option Three: Auckland Council and a Public Transport Authority;
 - 4.4 Option Four: Auckland Council and an Arterial Roads-Public Transport Authority;
 - 4.5 Option Five: Joint Venture Entity involving national and regional transport providers;
- 5 **confirmed** that local roads should be managed by a single agency to balance the competing demands on transport resources and allocate resources where they are most needed;
- 6 **confirmed** that:
- 6.1 a Regional Transport Authority with responsibility for delivery of all local authority transport functions (Option Two above) be established to provide greater focus on transport issues than could be provided by the Auckland Council;
 - 6.2 the existing Auckland Regional Transport Authority and the Auckland Regional Transport Committee be disestablished;

Transport functions of the Auckland Council

- 7 **agreed** that the Auckland Council transport functions, powers and responsibilities include:
- 7.1 setting the strategic direction for the local authority transport network in the Auckland region;
 - 7.2 responsibility for the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy;
 - 7.3 local authority transport funding, including any funding agreements with the Regional Transport Authority;
 - 7.4 working closely with the Regional Transport Authority, the NZ Transport Agency, and the New Zealand Railways Corporation to ensure the plans and views of those agencies are properly incorporated into transport decision-making by the Auckland Council;
 - 7.5 governance of the Regional Transport Authority in a similar way to a council-controlled organisation;
- 8 **agreed** that any Auckland Council committee that considers the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy include one additional member nominated by the NZ Transport Agency acting in an advisory role;

Functions of the Regional Transport Authority

- 9 **agreed** that the purpose of the Regional Transport Authority in Auckland be to undertake its functions in a way that contributes to an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive, and sustainable land transport system for the Auckland region;
- 10 **agreed** that the Regional Transport Authority's functions, powers and duties include:
- 10.1 planning and delivery of the local authority transport network in the Auckland region, including local roading and public transport, in accordance with the strategic direction set by the Auckland Council;

- 10.2 preparing the Auckland Regional Land Transport Programme, which sets out the projects and services to be funded by the Auckland Council, local boards, and the NZ Transport Agency over the next three years, including State highways;
- 10.3 ensuring that the Auckland Regional Land Transport Programme is consistent with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding, the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy, and the Auckland Council's Long-Term Council Community Plan;
- 10.4 engaging with local boards over local transport improvements;
- 10.5 working closely with the NZ Transport Agency and the New Zealand Railways Corporation to ensure the plans and views of those agencies are properly incorporated into Regional Transport Authority decision-making;
- 10.6 acting as an approved organisation in respect of transport activities for which funding has been approved by the NZ Transport Agency;
- 10.7 being the Road Controlling Authority for Auckland local roads and all local authority car-parking functions;
- 10.8 undertaking public transport planning, regulation, and contracting under the Public Transport Management Act 2008;
- 10.9 being a requiring authority under the Resource Management Act 1991;

Transport functions of local boards

- 11 **agreed** that the local boards' transport functions, powers and duties include:
 - 11.1 being a statutory consultee in the development of the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Auckland Regional Land Transport Programme;
 - 11.2 advising the Auckland Council and the Regional Transport Authority on local transport needs that the local boards consider should be provided for in the Auckland Regional Land Transport Programme, and that transport not be subject to service level agreements between the Auckland Council and local boards;
 - 11.3 providing funding for transport projects from local board budget allocations, provided those proposals are incorporated into the Auckland Regional Land Transport Programme;

Regional Transport Authority Board

- 12 **agreed** that the Regional Transport Authority Board:
 - 12.1 have between six and eight voting members appointed by the Auckland Council, with relevant expertise;
 - 12.2 include up to two Auckland councillors to recognise the significance of transport issues in Auckland, with non-elected members having a four-year term;
 - 12.3 have one additional member nominated by the NZ Transport Agency acting in an advisory role;

Co-ordination mechanisms

- 13 **noted** that three mechanisms that will improve co-ordination between the national and regional transport networks in the Auckland region are:
- 13.1 the appointment of a NZ Transport Agency representative to any Auckland Council committee considering the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy and to the Regional Transport Authority Board;
 - 13.2 a duty on the Auckland Council and the Regional Transport Authority to work closely with the NZ Transport Authority and the New Zealand Railways Corporation;
 - 13.3 provision for metro-rail in the rail governance framework currently in development;

Transition arrangements

- 14 **agreed** that:
- 14.1 the powers of the Auckland Transition Agency include the appointment of an interim Regional Transport Authority Chief Executive Officer with all necessary powers to establish the Regional Transport Authority by 1 November 2010;
 - 14.2 the Auckland Council have a duty to appoint the Regional Transport Authority Board as soon as possible after the establishment of the Auckland Council;

Next steps

- 15 **noted** that the Minister of Transport intends to announce Cabinet's decisions on the above proposals;
- 16 **authorised** the Minister of Transport to take all necessary detailed policy decisions to determine the final form of the transport related provisions for inclusion in the third Auckland Governance Bill.

withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (09) 476

Distribution: (see over)