

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

**Minutes of Meeting No. JRS5 of Joint Road Safety Committee
held on 6 March 2018 in the Council Chamber, Barkes Corner, Tauranga
commencing at 10.00am**

Present

Councillor Margaret Murray-Benge (Chairperson) and Stuart Harvey (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Councillor Bill Grainger (Deputy Chairperson) and Karen Smith (Tauranga City Council), Councillor Andrew von Dadelszen (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Acting Senior Sergeant Wayne Hunter (NZ Police), Adam Francis (NZ Transport Agency), and Peter Bedford (Automobile Association)

In Attendance

G Allis (Deputy Chief Executive), Area Commander Inspector Clifford Paxton (NZ Police), Alex Jeffcoat (BECA), Justine Wilton (Westlink), and Michelle Parnell (Democracy Advisor)

Other

One member of the media.

The Chairperson advised that the NZ Transport Agency representative, Adam Francis had been seconded to a national role and would not be a part of the committee for the rest of the year. She thanked him for his service in his previous role at the NZ Transport Agency and for his contribution to the Joint Road Safety Committee.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jessica Davis (Accident Compensation Corporation), Jenny Mack (Bay of Plenty Regional Council) and Martin Parkes (Tauranga City Council).

Resolved: Councillors Murray-Benge / von Dadelszen

THAT the apologies for absence from Jessica Davis, Jenny Mack and Martin Parkes be accepted.

The Chairperson introduced Inspector Clifford Paxton to the Committee and invited him to introduce himself. He advised of his background in the Police and his previous experience in road safety during his career.

JRS5.1 **Minutes of Meeting No. JRS4 of the Joint Road Safety Committee**

The Committee considered the minutes of JRS4 of the Joint Road Safety Committee meeting held on 21 November 2017 as circulated with the agenda.

Resolved: Councillors Grainger / Murray-Benge

THAT the minutes of Meeting No. JRS4 of the Joint Road Safety Committee held on 21 November 2017 as circulated with the agenda be confirmed as a true and correct record.

JRS5.2 **Western Bay Joint Road Safety Operations Meeting Minutes**

As there were no meetings of the Western Bay Joint Road Safety Operations Committee since the last meeting of this committee, there were no new minutes to receive.

JRS5.3 **New Zealand Police Report**

The Committee considered a report from the New Zealand Police dated 8 February 2018 as circulated with the agenda.

Acting Senior Sergeant Hunter advised that since the report had been written a second fatality had occurred involving a mobility scooter. He also advised that he had amended the NZ Police report to provide more context to the incidents that were reported.

The Committee discussed State Highway Two North and the issues in some areas on this road. It was surmised that the majority of issues on this road were attributed to driver behaviour rather than issues with the road itself but, when mistakes occurred or drivers were distracted, the road was very unforgiving, and the outcome was serious injury. It was also discussed that intersections on both State Highway Two and 29 were not safe for various reasons and needed attention.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan 2018 was referenced during this discussion and it was noted that no information had been included in this document about projects pertaining to roads of significance, as it was believed State Highway Two North was. The NZ Transport Agency representative advised that the State Highway Two North project would be started from the Waihi Beach end and work towards Tauranga and that the project process required adherence to legal processes including consent that started at the end of last year.

In response to a question regarding Loop Road, the NZ Transport Agency representative advised that the work for this was programmed for some time in 2021. He also explained that, while the project was being worked on, the NZ Transport Agency was working to mitigate some of the problem areas and intersections on State Highway Two North to decrease hazards and risk of serious injury until the projected works had been completed. He advised he could provide further information about the project to the Committee.

In response to a question, Acting Senior Sergeant Hunter advised that the Te Puna roundabout had made some great improvements to safety in the area. He reported that traffic safety campaigns in the area had revealed that those who were caught in traffic in the area would start using their cell phones while they were waiting and held up traffic because they were not paying attention when traffic was able to move.

Acting Senior Sergeant Hunter also spoke about Operation Kiddi-click, which involved the stopping of cars with car seats and those car seats being checked for compliance by Plunket technicians. He advised that Plunket was no longer funding this project and thanked the Travel Safe Programme Leader who had helped secure funding for the most recent operation.

Resolved: Councillors Murray-Benge / von Dadelszen

THAT the New Zealand Police's report dated 8 February 2018 be received.

JRS5.4

Accident Compensation Corporation Update

The Committee considered a report from the Accident Compensation Corporation dated 16 February 2018 as circulated with the agenda. The Accident Compensation Corporation representative was unavailable for the meeting and was not able to speak to her report but had noted the she had been reappointed to her position and would continue as the Accident Compensation Corporation representative on this Committee.

In response to a question about "born-again motorcycle riders" Acting Senior Sergeant Hunter advised that many of these drivers had to relearn how to ride their motorbikes after having ridden in their youth. A suggestion was made that the licencing of these motorcycle riders be reviewed and be made more stringent. The Travel Safe Programme Leader of the Tauranga City Council advised of the voluntary programmes that were currently available for motorcycle riders and there was some discussion around whether these programmes needed to be made mandatory.

Resolved: Councillors Grainger / Murray-Benge

1. THAT the Accident Compensation Corporation's report dated 16 February 2018 be received.

2. *THAT it be recommended to the Accident Compensation Corporation that they pursue that retraining be made mandatory to all motorcycle riders who would be deemed at risk as and when they purchased large motorcycles.*

JRS5.5

Travel Safe Road Safety Action Plan Report

The Committee considered a report from the Travel Safe Programme Leader of the Tauranga City Council dated 19 February 2018 as circulated with the agenda. The Travel Safe Programme Leader spoke to her report and to a revolving presentation that had been playing during the meeting of the banners that had been created by local schools for Orange Day 2017.

The Chairperson commended those who were involved in Orange Day. The Travel Safe Programme Leader explained the process the students went through to create the banners and explained that they were advertised in the community.

The Travel Safe Programme Leader updated the Committee on how the Travel Safe Programmes were tracking for the year and surmised the emerging issues that had been noted, drawing particular attention to the safety issues faced by mobility scooter users.

Councillor von Dadelszen advised that, as part of the Te Aranui Youth Trust, he was disappointed that their expo was no longer funded by Travel Safe. The Travel Safe Programme Leader advised that the decision to not fund the expo was a difficult one and explained that funding from the Travel Safe Programme was allocated based on a best practice model.

Acting Senior Sergeant Hunter tabled a document featuring a model of mobility scooter to illustrate the scope and capability of mobility scooters available particularly those that could be used on the roads, which cause safety issues for other drivers sharing the roads with them.

Resolved: Councillor Murray-Benge / Member Bedford

1. *THAT the Tauranga City Council Travel Safe Programme Leader's report dated 19 February 2018 be received.*
2. *THAT the Committee support asking the NZ Transport Agency to look at the legislation for mobility scooter to improve safety for this vulnerable group of users including but not limited to user training, the impact of users health on their ability to use mobility scooters and registration of motor scooters.*
3. *THAT the information about the mobility scooter tabled be sent to the Minister of Transport, Phil Twyford, to investigate the legality of the vehicle further.*

JRS5.6 Transport Agency Update

The Committee considered a report from the NZ Transport Agency Representative and dated 16 February 2018 as circulated with the agenda.

The NZ Transport Agency Representative explained the origins of his new role within the NZ Transport Agency and advised his new role would require him to assess speed management in some of the areas in New Zealand that had been identified as the most unsafe and apply the recently developed speed management guidelines to these areas. He also advised of a summit that would be held on 9 April 2018, which would involve discussions at a national level about road safety. The Deputy Chief Executive of the Western Bay of Plenty District Council advised that the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and he would be attending the summit. The Chairperson advised she would be unavailable.

The NZ Transport Agency Representative introduced Alex Jeffcoat from BECA who had been seconded into Mr Francis' previous role and advised that either Mr Jeffcoat or Marcell Davison, who was now based in Tauranga, would be attending Committee meetings in his place for the rest of the year. He explained he would still be based in Tauranga and was still contactable by Committee members as required.

There was discussion that road safety should be dealt with at a local rather than a national level and that regional groups needed to be allocated larger budgets so they could look after their areas more effectively.

In relation to Belk Road, the NZ Transport Agency Representative advised that the project had evolved along with the Tauriko Business Case. He explained that the Regional Council had engaged a consultant to help with the process. Due to a specific interpretation of legislation, it had been surmised that the profile of the highway in the area acted like a dam, therefore designating the road as a structure. The NZ Transport Agency Representative advised that discussion was ongoing and the Committee would be advised of the conversation.

In his report, the NZ Transport Agency Representative drew the Committee's attention to the Low Cost, Low Risk projects listed on page 50 of the agenda and asked for feedback as to the priority of the projects. It was agreed that the Poripori Road and Pongakawa Station Road projects should be given the highest priority.

It was suggested that those who use State Highway Two North regularly would benefit from a clear message about the nature of the road and that they must pay attention while doing so. It was further suggested that the organisers of the Omokoroa Future Focus meetings could be approached by the Committee to make a presentation at the next meeting to advise them when proposed improvements would likely take place and to advise the community of best practice until those changes are able to be made.

In response to questions, the NZ Transport Agency Representative explained:

- The Safer Journeys Risk Assessment Tool had been developed and informed by a lot of information including the level of risk on roads and the road side hazards, assessment of what the safe and appropriate speed limit should be and what the speed limit currently was. Travel speed data from Tomtom was used to calculate the average speed on each road. The NZ Transport Agency used this information to design roads so that drivers would naturally slow down when required and to make sure that if drivers made a mistake, that they were not fatally or seriously injured.
- There had been police support for the reduction of speeds where necessary. Area Commander Inspector Paxton confirmed this.
- The knock on effect of reduced speeds for local businesses and industries had been taken into consideration when making recommendations to reduce speed.

Resolved: Councillors Murray-Benge / von Dadelszen

1. *THAT the New Zealand Transport Agency Senior Safety Engineer's report dated 16 February 2018 be received.*
2. *THAT it be recommended to the NZ Transport Agency that the Poripori Road and Pongakawa Station Road project be given priority from the Low Cost Low Risk Project list provided.*
3. *THAT it be recommended to the organisers of the Omokoroa Future Focus meetings that members of the Joint Road Safety Committee be permitted to present to the Omokoroa Community at the next meeting.*

JRS5.7

Road Safety Action Plan

The Committee considered a report from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Sustainable Transport Officer dated 23 February 2018 as circulated with the agenda.

A concern about the number of phases a project needed to go through for a decision to be made was raised.

Resolved: Councillors Murray-Benge / von Dadelszen

THAT the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Sustainable Transport Officer's report dated 23 February 2018 be received.

The meeting concluded at 11.49am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

Councillor Margaret Murray-Benge
Chairperson

Date

JRS5