

25. NEW LAND TRANSPORT POLICY: WORK AND CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Stephen Matheson, City Streets Manager
Corporate Plan Output: Information and Advice to the Council	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Land Transport Policy review presently being undertaken by the Ministry of Transport and to obtain their agreement for the Land Transport Subcommittee to provide Council input for that review.

The Coalition Government have clearly indicated that the transport reform proposals of the previous government as outlined in “Better Transport Better Roads”, will go no further. The Minister of Transport, Hon Mark Gosche is now developing new proposals.

The Minister has indicated that he does not want to go back to square one. After five years debate, it is his belief that there is a general consensus about the need for change to the way we manage and fund our land transport system.

The Ministers proposed approach to the policy development is to consider the work in stages. (Refer Attachment 1).

There is a group of short-term policy decisions, which generally do not require legislative change. These include the passenger transport and safety initiatives announced both pre and post the recent budget. This work is proceeding.

Secondly, there is a group of works, which have more of a medium term focus. The Minister proposes progressing these in three stages:

- Stage one – managing the impacts of land transport (safety, environment, passenger transport, the New Zealand Transport Strategy and further safety developments).
- Stage two – funding and charging for land transport (alternative ways of allocating funding and alternative charging mechanisms).
- Stage three – delivering land transport (roading/transport organisations/institutional arrangements) and bringing all policy development work together.

It is proposed that these three stages would be completed by the end of November 2000. Final cabinet papers will be prepared late in this calendar year. Legislation could be introduced in the first half of 2001.

The Minister has indicated that he wants to involve the local government sector in each stage of the policy development process. LGNZ have established a working party and technical advisory group to consider and recommend a formal position on transport reform. The working party have been seeking comment and support from its members. The Secretary of Transport recently visited Christchurch to update members of the Community Road group on the review process and the issues to be covered.

I have provided an initial response to LGNZ on the Stage 1 topics but further input may be required as the papers are developed. The issues of funding and possible clustering of local authority roading responsibilities in Stages 2 and 3 are more complex and preferably should include elected member input. Given the very tight timetable and short time available to respond, it is suggested that the Land Transport Subcommittee be used to provide that input.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the City Streets Manager confirm with the Land Transport Subcommittee the details of the submission.