
Growth and Infrastructure Committee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth and Infrastructure Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 9.35am.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr D Macpherson
Deputy Chairperson	Cr G Taylor
Members	Mayor A King
	Deputy Mayor M Gallagher
	Cr M Bunting
	Cr J R Casson
	Cr S Henry
	Cr G Mallett
	Cr A O'Leary
	Cr R Pascoe
	Cr P Southgate
	Cr L Tooman
	Cr P Yeung

Richard Briggs - Chief Executive
Chris Allen - General Manager Infrastructure
Kelvyn Eglinton - General Manager City Growth
Sean Hickey - General Manager Strategy and Communications
David Bryant - General Manager Corporate
Blair Bowcott - Executive Director Special Projects
Luke O'Dwyer – Economic Growth and Planning Unit Manager
Kelvin Powell – City Safe Unit Manager
Alice Morris – City Planning Policy Team Leader
Debra Stan-Barton – Planning Guidance Unit Manager
Jason Harrison – City Transportation Unit Manager
Nicola Walsh – Communications Advisor
Nigel Ward – Communications Advisor
Greg Carstens - Team Leader Growth Funding and Analytics
Nicolas Wells – Strategic Property Manager
Lee-Ann Jordan – Governance Manager
Becca Brooke – Governance Team Leader
Ian Loiterton – Committee Advisor

Claire Guthrie – Committee Advisor
Malcolm Frethey – IT Business Analyst

Parekawhia Mclean – New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA), Central North Island Regional Director accompanied by NZTA staff members Michelle Te Wharau, James Bevan and Andrew Mckillop

Growth and Infrastructure Committee Deputy Chair Cr Taylor took the Chair for the meeting in the temporary absence of the Growth & Infrastructure Committee Chair Cr Macpherson.

1. Apologies

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Bunting)

That the apology from Cr Macpherson for lateness is received and accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Resolved: (Crs Mallett/Tooman)

That the agenda is confirmed, noting:

- an extra item (Chairperson's Report) to be added to the agenda (circulated under separate cover.
- the attachment for Item 12 (Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund – Indicative Proposal from Hamilton City Council) was circulated under separate cover.
- the order of the agenda would be changed to accommodate external presenters and members of the public in attendance.

3. Declarations of Interest

No members declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum

Rod Bowman – spoke to Item 7 (Dinsdale Roundabout Petition).

He noted his concerns with the access from the roundabout onto Riflerange Road as visibility was now much less than before. He asked that Council and NZTA re-consider recent changes made to the road design.

Meshweyla Macdonald – Spoke to Item 5, (General Manager's Report, Templeview Demolition). Ms Macdonald, as a resident at Templeview, was concerned that the heritage and special character aspects of Templeview were not being preserved with current and future developments being proposed. She asked that Council consider the heritage aspects of the area in granting resource consents.

Phil Evans - Spoke to Item 5, (General Manager's Report, SPCA MoU).

Mr Evans gave a presentation on his experience with cats being a nuisance on his property and preying on his birds. He asked that Council do more to educate cat owners of their responsibilities and that further initiatives be put in place to promote good cat owner behaviour.

Russelle Knaap - Grey Power – Spoke to Item 7, (Dinsdale Roundabout Petition).

She raise concerns with safety at the roundabout and noted that something needed to be done to rectify the problems in the area created by recent road design changes.

Tom MacRae – Hamilton Ratepayers Association – Spoke to Item 7, (Dinsdale Roundabout Petition)

He stated his concerns with the Riflerange Road access noting that he had particular concerns around the safety of drivers and pedestrians.

Cr Macpherson joined the meeting (9.50am) during the Public Forum. He resumed as Chair of the meeting for Item 7 (Dinsdale Roundabout Petition).

Trish Greene (Dinsdale Road Petition Lodger) spoke to the Committee concerning the Dinsdale Road Roundabout Petition that was lodged with Council in December 2016 .

She noted that since the petition was lodged, HCC and NZTA had been responsive and meetings had taken place to discuss concerns raised through the petition. She was confident that the residents' concerns were being taken seriously and that progress was being made to deal with the issues raised.

5. Dinsdale Roundabout Petition

The City Transportation Manager introduced the staff report. He and Michelle Te Wharau (NZTA) responded to questions from Committee Members concerning safety issues on the roundabout and the reasons for the structural changes that had been made. They noted that since the petition was lodged, NZTA had meet with the residents and Council and a number of changes were currently in the process of being made in response to concerns raised.

Ms Te Wharau explained that the roundabout was a complex environment with multiple issues to contend with. She explained a number of changes that NZTA were looking into to enable all users of the intersection to navigate it safely and to address the concerns raised through the petition.

The meeting adjourned 10.45 – 11.00am during the discussion of the above Item.

Following the adjournment, Item 6 (New Zealand Transport Agency Update) was taken prior to the debate and voting for Item 7 (Dinsdale Roundabout Petition) to accommodate an external presenter in attendance to speak to Item 6.

6. New Zealand Transport Agency Update

Ms Parekawhia Mclean (Central North Island Regional Director, New Zealand Transport Agency) (NZTA) presented to the Committee on NZTA's future strategic direction. Ms Mclean was supported by NZTA staff members James Bevan and Andrew Mackillop. They responded to questions raised by Committee Members concerning:

- Drivers licensing and consideration of compulsory driver education hours. NZTA noted that this was under active consideration.
- The introduction of regional number plates. NZTA advised that this was not currently being considered.
- Technological advances and initiatives (driverless cars) coming in the future and the consideration being given to this. NZTA advised that these matters were being investigated very seriously in terms of future planning and they had a number of initiatives underway to take into account this evolving area.
- Commuter cycling vs recreational cycling. NZTA was actively contributing to enhancing cycle trails in the region and worked closely to collaborate with Councils to develop cycling initiatives.
- Shared passenger transport options to Auckland. This was viewed as a medium to long term initiative with work currently being done in North Waikato around developing a long term strategy for a rail network to the south of the City.
- Southern Links network – this was currently programmed for 2030 but NZTA recognised that with the recent growth in Hamilton, advancement may need to be looked at, and was working closely with Council on this matter.
- The Hamilton Expressway on Resolution Drive. NZTA were currently looking into and reviewing the design of the ramps in relation to traffic flows in this area.
- Tourist Driver concerns. NZTA advised that the introduction of tourist driver licences was under active consideration, with research in this area being undertaken to develop baseline data.

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/Gallagher)

That the report is received.

Following the conclusion of Item 6 (New Zealand Transport Agency Update), the Committee resumed Item 7 (Dinsdale Road Roundabout Petition).

7. Dinsdale Roundabout Petition – *(continued)*

The City Transportation Manager and Michelle Te Wharau (NZTA) resumed answering questions from Committee Members concerning safety issues relating to the roundabout and the reasons for the changes that had been made and were proposed to be made.

When asked if it possible to introduce lights on the roundabout similar to those on Tauranga roundabouts Ms Te Wharau explained this had been explored with the consultant but there was not enough adjacent land available to make that option viable.

An education programme on roundabout driving was suggested. NZTA noted that they would put that idea forward for consideration.

Committee Members raised concerns around the perceived lack of consultation with residents and business owners in the area prior to NZTA making the changes in question. It was noted that there was considerable growth in the area especially coming from Temple View and Raglan which was resulting in a much higher traffic flow in the area and Elected Members questioned whether this had been taken into consideration. NZTA and Council staff noted that long term solutions needed to be looked into and investigated in response to dealing with the level of future growth expected in the area.

The General Manager City Infrastructure advised that Council would work with NZTA to ensure that future developments or proposed changes to roading design or layout, including Dinsdale Roundabout changes, would have better public engagement and consultation. Staff took on board the concerns around delays in responding to the issues raised about the Dinsdale Roundabout and in dealing with the subsequent petition. It was noted that staff would look to establish community liaison groups to improve public engagement.

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/Casson)

That:

- a) the report is received;
- b) the Committee endorses the changes proposed by the New Zealand Transport Agency to Dinsdale Roundabout which include the re-instatement of two lanes on the Tuhikaramea Road approach plus minor adjustments to some islands at the roundabout and associated road marking; and
- c) staff from both the Transport Agency and Council work together to complete further monitoring once the changes have been made, including the entrance to Dinsdale Road and access to and from Rifle Range Road and that a further update report come back to the 1 August 2017 Growth and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

8. Chair's Report (*under separate cover*)

Cr Macpherson spoke to his Chair's report outlining that the visit to Wellington had been very useful and a summary of outcomes and ideas would be circulated.

It was clarified that NZTA would be asked to put in public art on the Expressway at the gateway entrances to Hamilton such as done in other areas. The proposal would be brought back to the Committee once formulated. He thanked Parakawhia McLean for attending the meeting and providing an NZTA update to the Committee.

It was noted that Council was in discussions with the Government concerning the Housing Initiative Fund and that staff would provide an update on the matter during the meeting.

Elected Members were asked to speak to staff in advance of Committee meetings if they had any concerns or questions in relation to staff reports or if they had alternate motions or amendments they wanted to put forward.

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/O'Leary)

That the report is received.

9. General Managers' Report

SPCA Closure:

The General Manager City Growth spoke to the SPCA item in the General Manager report. He advised that SPCA was now re-opened and under new management. The MOU for the intake of animals as facilitated by the SPCA (tabled at the meeting), that was previously agreed between Council and the SPCA would remain in place. Staff responded to questions from Committee Members concerning clarification of the arrangements outlined in the MOU between Council and SPCA especially concerning the issue of cats.

Committee Members discussed the various issues related to cats straying onto peoples properties and also the issue of feral cats. Staff outlined a number of processes and procedures in place to deal with these types of problems.

Action: Staff were asked to circulate the paper on Victoria's stance on cat curfews

Temple View Scoping Report:

Economic Growth and Planning Unit Manager spoke to the Temple View Scoping item in the General Manager report. He outlined that as a result of the scoping report undertaken, a number of constraints and opportunities were highlighted that would need to be considered in accommodating additional development in the Temple View area.

Temple View Resource Consent Application:

Planning Guidance Unit Manager spoke to the Temple View Resource Consent Application item of in the General Manager report. She highlighted that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Trust Board had submitted a resource consent application that sought consent for multiple activities within the Comprehensive Plan Development Area. Submissions had been received concerning the application for resource consent being notified. As a result, it was likely that hearings would need to take place at a future date and they would be led by an independent hearings commissioner. Dependant on the outcome of the hearings, there was a possibility that this matter could eventually go before the Environment Court.

Staff responded to questions from Committee Members concerning Council involvement in preserving heritage aspects of buildings, commercial developments in the area, potential traffic issues, and resource consent process clarification.

The meeting adjourned 12.38 – 1.15pm during the discussion of the above item.

Cr Gallagher left the meeting during the adjournment.

Chief Executive/General Manager Executive Engagement Sessions and Developers Forums:

The General Manager City Growth spoke to the Chief Executive/General Manager Executive Engagement Sessions and Developers Forums item in the General Manager report. He outlined the importance of engaging with developers and the benefits that these forums provided to Council in terms of relationship management and engagement.

Quarterly Growth Update:

The General Manager City Growth noted that the Quarterly Growth Update provided very useful data on a range of trends and that a formal report would come to the next Committee meeting.

Heritage Update:

The City Planning Policy Team Leader summarised the Heritage Update section of the staff report. She responded to questions from Committee Members concerning the different conventions used in identifying parts of the heritage list. She explained that there were two different lists for heritage buildings; the National Heritage List told the story of New Zealand, and the District Plan list referred to regional and local stories and aligned to the Resource Management Act. 99% of buildings listed under the National Heritage Act are identified in the District Plan. Each document listed items with a different numbering convention which ran in parallel.

Electric Vehicles:

The City Transportation Manager summarised the Electric Vehicles item in the General Managers report. He responded to questions from Committee Members concerning what Hamilton City Council was doing to enable and facilitate the use of Electric Vehicles and how potential charging stations would work and be implemented in the City. Further questions were raised around the wider plans for Council to be involved with energy saving initiatives.

Cr Gallagher re-joined the meeting (1.30pm) during the discussion of the above matter.

Maintenance Strategy for Footpaths:

The City Transportation Manager spoke to this item in the General Managers report. He outlined how the maintenance programme was managed. He responded to questions from Committee Members concerning:

- The paving/cobble issues in the shared zone. It was explained that there were a number of issues to be considered with the use of cobbles including maintaining a look for the purposes of pedestrian right of way and Garden Place. Where particular materials were consistently not performing, staff assessed necessary upgrade solutions such as with the change of materials in Commerce Street.
- Tree roots damaging footpaths and other underground infrastructure. It was explained that many of the issues with tree roots arose from previous plantings and that current plantings addressed root containment e.g. Anglesea Street with root-contained trees .
- The process for members if they thought footpaths/pavements needed to be upgraded or needed maintenance. Staff advised that considerations for requested upgrades/maintenance would be on a case by case basis.

NZ Post Proposal for use of Paxster Vehicles on footpaths:

The City Transportation Manager spoke to NZPost's proposal for use of Paxster vehicles on footpaths. He noted that Paxster vehicles were intended to replace courier vans for the delivery of parcels but that there were various issues involved in accommodating their use on footpaths. The Chief Executive currently has delegated authority to make this decision but sought feedback from Elected Members.

Elected Members asked that staff investigate footpaths suitability for the size of the vehicles, potential impact on other footpath users such as mobility scooters, additional footpath maintenance that would be needed, right of way issues, potential impact on grass verges and driveways, and how the proposal would support service delivery to the community.

Speed Management:

The City Transportation Manager spoke to the Speed Management item in the General Manager report. He advised that a report would be coming to a future Growth and Infrastructure Committee meeting in relation to this matter.

He responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the cost of investing in more speed trailers and the time taken to rotate the trailers around areas where speed was a concern to residents.

Auckland to Hamilton Passenger Rail:

The City Transportation Manager spoke to the Auckland to Hamilton Passenger Rail item in the General Manager report. He advised that he was involved in the North Waikato Transport Programme business case being developed by NZTA, looking at the rail connection from Auckland to Tuakau.

In response to questions from Elected Members, the City Transportation Manager clarified that the option currently did not include Hamilton but that he had asked that the business case be extended to Hamilton at the point that the scope looked to include Huntly. A report on future proofing land for Park'nRide would be presented to the next Growth and Infrastructure Committee Meeting.

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/Mallett)

That:

- a) the report is received;
- b) the Committee delegates authority to the Chief Executive to enter into a licence to occupy with WEL Networks Ltd for 2 car parking spaces in the Caro Street Car Park for the purposes of WEL installing and operating a charging station for 2 electric vehicles for an initial term of 10 years with rights of renewal ;
- c) staff report to the 9 May 2017 Growth and Infrastructure Committee meeting on the risks/benefits and costs associated with different forms of paving on footpaths and roadways; and
- d) the Committee note that staff are progressing discussions with NZ Post on the use of Paxters and will report back to the 28 March 2017 Growth and Infrastructure Committee meeting on any implications for the City.

10. Taskforce Update - Verbal Report

The General Manager City Infrastructure provided a verbal report to the Committee concerning the Parking Taskforce and the Access Hamilton Strategy Taskforce. He highlighted following points:

- staff would bring back a report to the Growth and Infrastructure Committee concerning new parking technology and opportunities in this area
- options for free parking in the CBD
- agreed actions from the taskforce would be brought back to a future Growth and Infrastructure Committee meeting.
- Staff and Elected Members had been engaging with Hamilton Central Business Association(HCBA) on various parking and access issues affecting businesses.
- Staff were looking closely at options for angled parking within the city and other options for improvement in the areas of access and parking.

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/Bunting)

That the verbal report is received.

11. On Street Parking Supply in CBD

The City Transportation Manager spoke to the report, which staff had been asked to bring back to the Committee concerning on street parking supply in the CBD and opportunities to increase parking stock. He explained the components of the desktop exercise undertaken to collect the information provided in the report. Staff explained that the Stage 1 “easy to implement” opportunities included changing some parks in Bryce, Hood and Knox Streets to angle parking. The other two categories involved more or significant effort to implement.

In response to questions from Elected Members, staff clarified a number of points including; that formal consultation had not been undertaken at this stage; that the easy to do changes were not considered during Central City Transformation Plan discussions as they were at an operational level; that the effectiveness of the current parking zones had been analysed (taxi, loading etc) and would be discussed with businesses to see if changes were needed and that the timing of changes would be considered in relation to the introduction of the new parking technology.

Resolved: (Cr Macpherson/Mayor King)

That:

- a) the report is received;
- b) the Committee approves implementation of additional parking for sites assessed as “easy to implement” subject to consultation with affected organisations, with costs of up to \$25,000 met from the discretionary transport budget;
- c) the Committee approves the initiation of a bylaw process to reduce the speed limit in Knox Street to 30 km/h to support the implementation of angle parking, subject to consultation with affected organisations;
- d) the Committee approves further investigation of additional parking for sites assessed as “requiring some effort to implement” to be reported back to the Committee through the Central City Parking Control Taskforce; and
- e) the Committee approves further investigation of additional parking for sites assessed as “requiring significant effort to implement” to be reported back to the Committee through the Central City Parking Control Taskforce.

Those for the Motion:

Mayor King, Councillors Casson, Gallagher, Macpherson, Mallett, Taylor and Yeung.

Those against the Motion:

Councillors Henry, O'Leary, Pascoe, Southgate and Tooman.

The Motion was declared carried.

Cr Bunting (2.50pm) left the meeting during the above Item. He was not present when the matter was voted on.

The meeting adjourned 3.30pm – 3.50pm.

Crs Gallagher and Southgate left the meeting during the above adjournment.

Cr Bunting re-joined the meeting during the above adjournment.

12. Appointments to the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee – (Recommendation to Council)

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/King)

That the Growth and Infrastructure Committee recommends to Council, the appointment of Hamilton City Council’s representatives on the Regional Public Transport Plan Development Subcommittee, to be Crs Macpherson, Tooman, and Taylor (any two of the three members are to attend meetings).

13. Meteor Theatre - Access Ramp

The Chief Executive responded to questions from Committee Members concerning why approval was needed by the Committee for an access ramp for the Meteor Theatre. The Chief Executive advised that he did not have delegated authority. It was confirmed that all costs associated with construction, maintenance, and compliance would be met by One Victoria Trust.

Resolved: (Crs Taylor/Mallett)

That:

- a) the report is received;
- b) the Committee approves the construction of a new accessible entrance ramp and stairs for the Meteor Theatre; and
- c) the Committee authorises the Chief Executive to execute all instruments required to give effect to this resolution.

12. Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund - Indicative Proposal from Hamilton City Council

The General Manager City Growth spoke to the staff report and explained that an indicative proposal for the Government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund had to be put to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) by 31 March 2017. He then outlined that a detailed business case was to be developed around three options – the Peacockes and Rotokauri developments; Peacockes only; Rotokauri only. These were to be presented to MBIE between July-December 2017 with funding agreements to be finalised in early 2018.

Resolved: (Cr Mallett/Mayor King)

That the report is received.

The meeting was declared closed at 4.00pm.