

Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees (RTC) MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees held in the CODC Council Chamber, 1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra, on Monday 28 September 2026, commencing at 10:00 am.

PRESENT

Otago Regional Transport Committee

Cr Kate Wilson (RTC Chair)

Cr Matt Hollyer (RTC Deputy Chair)

Cr Bruce Graham

Cr Stuart Duncan

Cr Steve Walker

Cr Quentin Smith

Cr John McCone

Otago Regional Council

Otago Regional Council (online)

Clutha District Council

Central Otago District Council

Dunedin City Council (online)

Queenstown Lakes District Council (online)

Waitaki District Council

Southland Regional Transport Committee

Cr Phil Morrison (RTC Chair)

Cr Alistair Gibson (RTC Deputy Chair)

Cr Christine Menzies

Cr Ria Bond

Environment Southland

Environment Southland

Southland District Council

Invercargill City Council (online)

Otago & Southland Regional Transport Committees

Mr James Caygill

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

1. WELCOME

Chair Wilson welcomed the committees and members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:00 am. Other attendees included Hartley Hare (Southland District Council), Dean Lowry (Otago Regional Council), Anita Dawe (Otago Regional Council), Stacey Hitchcock (Otago Regional Council), Lesley McCoy (Environment Southland), Liz Devery (Environment Southland), Helen Chapman (Dunedin City Council), Paul Fleet (Central Otago District Council), Grant Fisher (Invercargill City Council), Tony Pickard (Queenstown Lakes District Council), Henri Van Zyl (Gore District Council), Chris Bowen (ICC), Jason Domigan (Gore District Council). Attending online included Cr Matt Hollyer (Otago Regional Council), Cr Steve Walker (Dunedin City Council), Cr Quentin Smith (Queenstown Lakes District Council), Cr Ria Bond (Invercargill City Council), Rose Wunrow (Dunedin City Council), Dr Chris Allington (Whoosh CEO), Gary Wook (Waitaki District Council), Helen Chapman (Senior Transport Planner, Dunedin City Council), Michelle McCormick (Manager Policy and Stakeholders, KiwiRail), Gary Ikin (SI GM Renewals and Delivery), Ari Jakobs (Asset Engineer Lower South Island, KiwiRail), Greg Bassam (Lead Advisor Waka Kotahi) and Kylie Darragh (Otago Regional Council, Governance Support Officer).

2. APOLOGIES

Chair Wilson moved, Cr Christine Menzies seconded

Apologies for Deputy Mayor Joe Stringer, apologies for short absences for Cr Matt Hollyer and Cr Steve Walker, and James Caygill (for lateness).

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to address the Committees under Public Forum were received.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Changes to the order of papers were noted to accommodate KiwiRail attending at 1:00 pm.

5. PRESENTATION

Whoosh, CEO Dr Chris Allington presented to the Committees on the development of the Whoosh system for Queenstown. There was an opportunity for questions from the committee.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Bruce Graham Moved, Cr Phil Morrison Seconded

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 22 June 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

7. ACTIONS

There are currently no open actions for the committees.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

8.1. Chairperson's Report

Chair Wilson was available to respond to question on the report.

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1. Otago and Southland Expenditure to June 2026

[YouTube 1:23] The purpose of this report was to update the Regional Transport Committees on National Land Transport Programme expenditure to the end of June 2026. Each council committee member and staff representative had an opportunity to provide a brief overview of their work programmes.

Resolution RTC26-115: Chair Wilson Moved, Cr Phil Morrison Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2. Regional Land Transport Plans Improvement Projects Status

[YouTube 1:42] The purpose of this report was to support the Regional Transport Committees in fulfilling their responsibility to monitor the progress of projects included in the Regional Land Transport Plans. Dean Lowry (Senior Transport Planner, Otago Regional Council) was available to respond to questions on the report. Updates were given on key projects from both committees.

Resolution RTC26-116: Cr Phil Morrison Moved, Cr Stuart Duncan Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

At 11:41 am Cr Hollyer left the meeting.

9.3. Ministerial Statement on Land Transport

[YouTube 1:57] The purpose of this report was to provide Regional Transport Committees with an update on the Ministerial Statement on Land Transport, released on 13 August 2026, and to outline its relevance to the development of the Otago and Southland Regional Land Transport Plans. Lesley McCoy (Senior Regional Planner – Transport, Environment Southland) was available to respond to questions on the report. There was a discussion around the table on the funding model offered in the South Island. Chair Wilson asked the committees to consider the response to the next Minister.

Resolution RTC26-117: Cr Alistair Gibson Moved, Cr Bruce Graham Seconded

That the Committee:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Resolves** to draft a letter to the minister regarding the funding and revenue issues and inequities for Otago and Southland

MOTION CARRIED

Mr James Caygill (NZ Transport Waka Kotahi) abstained from the vote.

At 12:04 pm Chair Wilson Moved, Cr Phil Morrison Seconded

That the Committees adjourn until 12:40 pm

MOTION CARRIED

At 12:58 pm Cr Quentin Smith left the meeting.

9.7. New Zealand Transport Agency General Update

[YouTube 3:14] The purpose of this report was to allow the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) the opportunity to provide the Regional Transport Committees with an update on its activities. James Caygill of the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi went through some updates and some of the upcoming projects including the Draft State Highway Investment Proposal, with an opportunity for questions from the committees.

Resolution RTC26-118: Chair Wilson Moved, Cr Phil Morrison Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Provides** any feedback to the NZTA on the matters raised in the update.

MOTION CARRIED

9.5 KiwiRail Update

This matter was heard after matter 9.7.

[YouTube 3:14] The purpose of this report is to provide KiwiRail the opportunity to update the Regional Transport Committees on its activities, including the development of the Rail Network Investment Plan (RNIP). Gary Ikin (SI GM Renewals and Delivery), Michelle McCormick (Manager Policy and Stakeholders, KiwiRail) and Ari Jakobs (Asset Engineer, KiwiRail) presented on current and future activities from the committees. There was an opportunity for questions on the report.

Resolution RTC26-119: Cr Stuart Duncan Moved, James Carygill Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Provides** any feedback to the KiwiRail on the matters raised in the update.

MOTION CARRIED

At 1:45 pm the KiwiRail representatives left the meeting.

At 1:57 pm Cr Quentin Smith rejoined the meeting.

9.4. Prioritisation Process for Improvement Activities in the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plans

This matter was heard after matter 9.5.

[YouTube 3:49] The purpose of this report was to provide the Regional Transport Committees with an overview of the process for prioritising significant transport improvement activities in the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plans (RLTPs). This report also seeks approval for a minor adjustment to the agreed investment priority weightings. Dean Lowry (Senior Transport Planner, Otago Regional Council) introduced the paper and was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution RTC26-120: James Carygill Moved, Cr Phil Morrison Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Adopts** the recommended changes to the investment priority weightings.
- 3) Approves** the prioritisation process.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Steve Walker left the meeting at 2:29 pm

9.6. NZAA 2026 Election Calls Correspondence

[YouTube 4:07] The purpose of this report was to present correspondence from the New Zealand Automobile Association regarding its 2026 Election Calls. Lesley McCoy (Senior Regional Planner - Transport, Environment Southland) was available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution RTC26-121: Cr Steve Walker Moved, Cr Alistair Gibson Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes this report.**

MOTION CARRIED

9.8. South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group Activities Update

[YouTube 4:14] The purpose of this report was to update the Regional Transport Committees on the activities of the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group, and to provide the unconfirmed minutes from its most recent meeting. Lesley McCoy (Senior Regional Planner - Transport, Environment Southland) was available to respond to questions on the report. Chair Wilson called for greater mobilisation and advocacy in support of transport investment in the South and took a photo of the committees for media use. Chair Wilson asked for any matters of business for the South Island Chairs Group meeting next week.

Resolution RTC26-122: Cr Phil Morrison Moved, Cr Stuart Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Notes this report.**
- 2) Notes the unconfirmed minutes of the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group meeting held on 13 July 2026.**

MOTION CARRIED

10. EXTRAORDINARY AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no further urgent items.

12. CLOSURE

There was no further business, and Chair Wilson declared the meeting closed at 2:51 pm with a mantra from Cr Phil Morrison.

Chairperson

Date