



Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees (RTC) MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees held in the Gore District Council Chamber on Monday 28 July 2025, commencing at 10:30 am.

PRESENT

Otago Regional Transport Committee

Cr Kate Wilson (RTC Chair)

Cr Alexa Forbes (RTC Deputy Chair)

Cr Bruce Graham

Cr Jim O'Malley

Cr Quentin Smith

Cr Jim Thomson

Otago Regional Council

Otago Regional Council

Clutha District Council

Dunedin City Council

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Waitaki District Council

Southland Regional Transport Committee

Cr Jeremy McPhail (RTC Chair)

Cr Phil Morrison (RTC Deputy Chair)

Cr Christine Menzies

Cr Ria Bond

Environment Southland

Environment Southland

Southland District Council

Invercargill City Council

Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees

Mr Ian Duncan

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

Councillor Wilson was designated as the Chairperson for this combined RTC meeting.

1. WELCOME

Chair Wilson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 10:30 am. Cr Forbes opened the meeting with a karakia.

Committee members present were Cr Kate Wilson (Otago Regional Council and Chair), Cr Jeremy McPhail (Environment Southland), Cr Bruce Graham (Clutha District Council), Cr Jim O'Malley (Dunedin City Council), Cr Quentin Smith (Queenstown Lakes District Council), Cr Jim Thomson (Waitaki District Council), Mr Ian Duncan (New Zealand Transport Agency), Cr Phil Morrison (Environment Southland), Cr Christine Menzies (Southland District Council) and Cr Ria Bond (Invercargill City Council, online).

Other attendees included Russell Hawkes (Environment Southland), Lorraine Cheyne (Otago Regional Council), Danial Basubas (Otago Regional Council), Hartley Hale (Southland District Council), Dean Lowry (Environment Southland), Joshua Rendell (Waitaki District Council), Henri van Zyl (Gore District Council), Grant Fisher (Invercargill City Council), Liz Devery (Environment Southland), Helen Chapman (Dunedin City Council), Janine Benson (Dunedin City Council), Chad Barker (New Zealand Transport Agency), Shawn Scott (New Zealand Transport Agency), Murray Hasler (Gore District Council), Paul Fleet (Central Otago District Council), Jim Crouchley (Transporting New Zealand, online) and Cara Jordan (Otago Regional Council, Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

An apology from Cr Stuart Duncan was noted by the Chair.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Resolution: Cr O'Malley Moved, Cr McPhail Seconded

That public forum be delayed until after the Chairperson's Report due to the availability of KiwiRail staff. The agenda was then confirmed as published.

MOTION CARRIED

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr McPhail Moved, Cr Graham Seconded

That the minutes of the Committees' meeting held on 5 May 2025 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

6. ACTIONS

Open actions from resolutions of the Committees were reviewed and updates provided by Chair Wilson.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

7.1. Chairperson's Report

[YouTube 5:02] Chair Wilson updated the Committees on a meeting with the Minister of Transport on the 16 July 2025 and related feedback on the South Island Transport Story. Chair Wilson requested that the South Island Transport Network Vulnerabilities Report be shared with Committee members.

Resolution RTC25-101: Cr McPhail Moved, Cr Morrison Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Note this report.**

MOTION CARRIED

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. RTC Achievements of the Triennium

[YouTube 6:47] The report provided the Committees with a summary of their key achievements of the triennium (2022-2025). The role of the Committees in regional deals going forward was discussed. Collaboration was noted as a key contributor to success. Daniel Basubas (Transport Planner, Otago Regional Council) and Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport, Otago Regional Council) were available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-102: Cr Morrison Moved, Cr McPhail Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Note this report.**
- 2) Note that the achievements of the triennium have come through good collaboration of Committee members and staff.**
- 3) Give a vote of thanks to staff for working through changes to the drafts and final version of the Government Policy Statement and supporting the achievements of the Committees.**

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

[YouTube 17:50] Lisa de Coek and Andrew Bruce from KiwiRail were online to present to the Committees. The presentation covered the importance of freight hubs for the South Island, an update on the Rail Network Infrastructure Programme and an update on the status of South Island infrastructure. Planning processes and timeframes were discussed.

Cr McPhail left the meeting at 11:20 am.

Cr McPhail rejoined the meeting at 11:25 am.

8. STAFF REPORTS continued

8.2. Transport Operating Environment

[YouTube 1:14:10] The report updated the Committees on legislative and policy changes impacting Otago and Southland's regional land transport planning and management. The report also provided an update on current workstreams of interest to elected members and the wider public. The Going for Housing Growth programme, the draft National Infrastructure Plan, Time-of-use schemes and the Otago Central Lakes regional deal were discussed. Daniel Basubas (Transport Planner, Otago Regional Council) and Lorraine Cheyne (Manager Transport, Otago Regional Council) were available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-103: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McPhail Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Note this report.**

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution RTC25-104: Cr Smith Moved, Cr O'Malley Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Request staff to prepare a submission** on Going for Housing Growth programme and circulate it to members and delegate to the Chairs to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution RTC25-105: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr O'Malley Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Submit** on the draft national infrastructure plan and delegate to the Chairs to sign.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution RTC25-106: Cr Smith Moved, Cr Thomson Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Seek joint regular updates** from the Otago Lakes regional deal Steering Group Committee and relevant authorities on the progress.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McPhail Seconded

That the meeting be adjourned for 30 minutes until 1:00 pm.

Agenda item 8.6 was taken before item 8.3 due to staff availability.

8.6. Update on Southland District Council Bridge Replacements

[YouTube 2:32:20] The report updated the Committees on the processes and timeline involved in gaining final funding approval for the Southland District Council bridge replacement programme. Timing was a big challenge to deliver activities within the associated funding period. Hartley Hare (Roading Asset Manager, Southland District Council) and Russell Hawkes (Transport Planner, Environment Southland) were available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-107: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Smith Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Note** this report.

MOTION CARRIED

8.3. Regional Land Transport Plan Development – Review of Strategic Section

[YouTube 2:59:50] The report provided the opportunity for the Committees to comment, and provide direction to staff, on work to develop the Regional Land Transport Plan for the 2027/37 period. Russell Hawkes (Transport Planner, Environment Southland) was available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-108: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr O'Malley Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Note** the report.
- 2) **Ask staff** to reword the strategic section based on the Committee's discussions at this meeting and other consultation and bring the paper back to the Committees in the new triennium.

MOTION CARRIED

8.4. NLTP 2024/27 – Summary of Otago Southland Continuous Programmes Expenditure to June 2025

[YouTube 3:06:10] The report updated the Committees on the end of June 2025 expenditure on Continuous Programmes funded through the National Land Transport Fund. It was noted that

the report effectively covers 9 months and that the comments section will be completed after final year end. Russell Hawkes (Transport Planner, Environment Southland) was available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-109: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Morrison Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Note** the report.

MOTION CARRIED

8.5. RLTP Improvement Projects Status Update

[YouTube 3.14.10] The report provided an update on the current status and progress of improvement projects included in the current Regional Land Transport Plan 2024/27. Changes in the Government Policy Statement have impacted the process and changed priorities. Russell Hawkes (Transport Planner, Environment Southland) was available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-110: Cr O'Malley Moved, Cr Smith Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Note** this report.
- 2) **Write a letter** to central government outlining that Regional Transport Committees require surety in policy to ensure effective and efficient planning to meet demand.

MOTION CARRIED

8.7. New Zealand Transport Agency Update

[YouTube 3:20:19] The New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) provided an update on its activities. Winter maintenance, speed management, the national ticketing solution, safety cameras and regional projects were highlighted. Mr Ian Duncan from NZTA was available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-111: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr McPhail Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Note** the report.
- 2) **Provide any feedback** to the New Zealand Transport Agency on the topics included in the presentation.

MOTION CARRIED

8.8. South Island Regional Transport Committee Chair's Activities Update

[YouTube 3:57:10] Cr Wilson updated the Committees on the recent activities of the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group. The minutes of the latest meeting are not yet available. An investigation into the potential for regional commuter rail was discussed. Russell Hawkes (Transport Planner, Environment Southland) and Chair Wilson were available for questions.

Resolution RTC25-112: Cr O'Malley Moved, Cr Bond Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) **Note** the report.
- 2) **Write a letter** to the Minister of Transport, Minister of South Island and Minister for Rail to support the community's request to investigate commuter rail between Invercargill and Christchurch with a copy to Environment Canterbury.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr Duncan abstained.

9. EXTRAORDINARY AND URGENT BUSINESS

The inclusion of a KiwiRail representative being permanently appointed to the Regional Transport Committees was discussed.

Resolution RTC25-113: Cr O'Malley Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Committees:

- 1) Request** *that the Minister of Transport appoint a KiwiRail representative to the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees as per Section 105A 1(c) of the Land Transport Act.*

MOTION CARRIED

Mr Duncan abstained.

Members of the Regional Transport Committees shared their reflections for the new triennium's incoming Committee members. Key points noted were:

- The Committees undertake important work with common issues shared across the South Island.
- There is a need for long term strategy and planning that is not affected by political change.
- A request was noted for Councillors and staff to meet informally at the beginning of the triennium to share the need to work collectively and for staff to summarise key issues, challenges and constraints.
- The transport environment is a big complicated picture and new members must try to understand the base level of service as quickly as possible.
- A request was made for an induction meeting to be held to include a briefing paper outlining the Committees' history and key current issues with the ability to monitor progress across trienniums.
- To have empathy for all issues (urban or rural, large or small) and follow an evidence based approach with knowledge management.

10. CLOSURE

A vote of thanks was given to staff for their expertise and input into the Committees over the triennium. There was no further business and Chair Wilson declared the meeting closed at 3.22 pm.

Chairperson

Date