

13 February 2024

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Tēnā koe Ministers

Funding Prioritisation for Key Wellington Transport Corridors

Further to our meeting in December 2023, I am writing to you regarding some immediate challenges and opportunities around Wellington's transport corridors.

With the dissolution of Let's Get Wellington Moving, there is a risk of significant delays to a variety of quick transport solutions that could greatly improve the travel times and experience for Wellington commuters. In the LGWM dissolution document the parties recognised the importance of bus priority and a second spine.

These initiatives include implementing bus priority on key parts of the city's bus network including the Harbour Quays (referred to as the Second Spine) as well as improvements to the major transport corridors to the South (Wellington City to the Hospital and Island Bay) and to the East (Wellington City to Miramar and the Airport). For example, bus priority on the Harbour Quays would help alleviate congestion on the Golden Mile, where peak bus flows are up to 96 buses per hour, which is now approaching the theoretical maximum of 100 buses per hour.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) consider that these initiatives can be implemented with limited further planning, will result in rapid improvements to traffic flows and congestion along these routes. This would support the Government's 'Roads of National Significance' and 'Better public transport' initiatives by reducing travel times, creating a more efficient and safer transport network, tackling congestion, increasing productivity, and building resilience.

While we support taking a collaborative approach between Wellington City Council, the New Zealand Transport Agency and GWRC to addressing these challenges, GWRC are seeking assurance through the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) and National Land Transport Funding (NLTf) process that the Government is signalling their committed to address these immediate challenges.

You will be aware that the local government sector is facing significant infrastructure funding constraints, and that by signalling the prioritisation of these projects through the GPS and NLTf, the Government would help to build momentum and certainty for the timely delivery of these critical land transport infrastructure projects.

I look forward to hearing from you on these matters.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daran Ponter'.

Daran Ponter

Chair

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Copy:

Mayor Tory Whanau, Wellington City Council, via Email