WAKA KOTAHI
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Let's Get Wellington Moving Partners' Meeting - 5 September 2022
Date	2 September 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2566

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	**Position**	**Direct line**	**Cell phone**	**1st contact**
Brett Gliddon	General Manager Transport Services		s 9(2)(g)(i)	✓
Robyn Elston	National Manager System Design		s 9(2)(g)(i)	

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ **Noted**
- ☐ **Seen by Minister**
- ☐ **Agreed**
- ☐ **Feedback provided**
- ☐ **Forwarded to**
- ☐ **Needs change [please specify]**
- ☐ **Withdrawn**
- ☐ **Overtaken by events**

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2 September 2022

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

LET'S GET WELLINGTON MOVING PARTNERS' MEETING - 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with an update on Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) ahead of your 5 September 2022 meeting with LGWM funding partners.
2. The Funding partners and representatives are Greater Wellington Regional Council (Chair Daran Ponter attending), Waka Kotahi (Robyn Elston, National Manager System Design attending) and Wellington City Council (Mayor Andy Foster attending, Barbara McKerrow, Chief Executive Officer may be attending).
3. Representatives from Let's Get Wellington Moving will also attend:
    - Dave Brash, chair of the LGWM Partnership Board
    - Sarah Gardner, LGWM Programme Director

Updates on LGWM

4. Golden Mile
    - The Golden Mile project is continuing to progress well in its developed design phase. The Programme completed the August 2022 engagement with businesses and the community and is currently analysing the results of that campaign and taking on the valuable feedback. This included a written submission from the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) to inform the next design update. There will be ongoing engagement with the DPA, as well as with the wider accessibility community, as the team further advances the design plans.
5. Transformational programme
    - The LGWM transformational programme is within a transition period as it closes out the Indicative Business Case (IBC) and moves to procure and deliver the Detailed Business Case (DBC). Activity at a governance level is therefore lessened due to the critical decision having been made for the Preferred Programme Option Report (PPOR) in July 2022 and the formal endorsement of the IBC due at the end of 2022.
6. Thorndon Quay/ Hutt Road
    - The construction of the Aotea Quay roundabout to support the Thorndon Quay, Hutt Road project changes and the iREX development for Kiwi Rail is due to start this month. The Programme previously advised you of a funding gap between the budget for the project and 70 percent design costs. The increase reflects design changes related to site issues (e.g., contamination) and the contracting market.
    - s 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

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- The above issues need to be resolved for construction to start as scheduled. If construction does not begin within a month of the planned start, it will need to be delayed until after the FIFA World Cup. The LGWM Partnership Board will be discussing mitigation and options at its next meeting. An update will be provided to you after this.

7. Learning from light rail projects in Australia and Denmark

- The Programme is making the most of the opportunities to learn from light rail projects internally. This includes recent virtual meetings with Canberra and Denmark. Key messages from across the meetings were shared goals, thorough investigation, integration and sequencing, urban development, cost and complexity.
- Waka Kotahi is working with the Programme to facilitate LGWM benefitting from approaches and learnings from Auckland Light Rail (ALR) and relevant international projects, especially in Australia.

8. Preparing for local government elections

- The Programme is working with the councils to develop a LGWM-specific module for the induction programme for new councillors.

Potential Matters for Discussion

9. **The DBC:**

- Building on the IBC and LGWM partner decisions, this phase will undertake an integrated urban and transport optioneering and design process to confirm the urban development approach, Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) mode, corridor characteristics and delivery pathway.
- The LGWM Partnership Board and the Programme have heard the community feedback and Council concerns about the need to move at pace, and Council concerns about the value and scope of the DBC.
- Given the feedback and that the DBC is a critical phase of design, options and development, the LGWM Partnership Board is meeting on 7 September to clarify the DBC scope. Following this, the Programme can identify activities that can be brought forward while ensuring programme outcomes and alignment remain intact. Opportunities for acceleration include:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

  - Early delivery of utility enabling works to speed up MRT delivery
  - Alignment with other projects such as utility upgrades and similar projects such as ALR
  - Leveraging off other New Zealand and Australian project's expertise and purchasing.

10. **Local Government:**

- Given potential impacts for LGWM, you may wish to seek local government partner views on:
  - an alternative proposal to Wellington City Council's cycleway plan (see Wellington car dealer proposes alternative to controversial cycleway plan - NZ Herald).
  - The Wellington Report: a Voice for Business (available at Wellington Report (wecc.org.nz)) from The Wellington Chamber of Commerce.

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- the likely public questions about congestion pricing given the Travel Behaviour Change paper going to councils in September 2022. The paper does not include congestion pricing; however, it is likely this could be raised in response to the paper.

- It is likely that the councils will seek an update on the plan for funding MRT given the 28 August 2022 media coverage that Treasury officials will report back to Cabinet early 2022 with a plan to fund MRT across the country's three biggest cities. The partners will be keen to understand the likely implications for LGWM.

11. Urban development

- Partners continue to be interested in alignment on urban development priorities and funding mechanisms.
- On 26 August 2022, Kāinga Ora confirmed receipt of the Programme's request that LGWM MRT project and transit orientated development be considered as a specified development project.
- Kāinga Ora thanked the Programme for its constructive help to date and will let the Programme know the outcome of the request.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing

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Brett Gliddon

General Manager Transport Services

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2022

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