

Submission by

Hamilton City Council Staff

DRAFT AUCKLAND REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2021-2031

30 April 2021

It should be noted that the following submission is from staff at Hamilton City Council and does not necessarily represent the views of the Council itself.

1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Seek Auckland Transport and Auckland Council's ongoing support of the Te Huia start up inter-regional passenger rail service between Hamilton and Auckland.
- 1.2 Support the Waikato Regional Transport Committee **request** for the inclusion of Te Huia Hamilton to Auckland passenger rail service Phase 1B enhancement as an activity of inter-regional significance in Section 7 of the Auckland RLTP.
- 1.3 Support the Waikato Regional Transport Committee's submission that Auckland Transport bring a new project into your funding tables in the Appendices in regard to Phase 1B enhancements of the Hamilton to Auckland passenger rail service as a project for the Auckland Region.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Hamilton City Council staff would like to thank Auckland Transport for the opportunity to make a submission to the draft Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2031 (draft RLTP).
- 2.2 We commend Auckland Transport and its transport partners for producing a high-quality document.

3.0 HIGH LEVEL COMMENTS

- 3.1 We provide overall support for your draft 2021-2031 RLTP, recognising the importance of the 2021 Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP) package of work which forms an important part of the investment in Auckland's transport system over the next decade. We note a number of these ATAP projects will provide benefits to the whole upper North Island transport system.
- 3.2 We support the process that you have gone through to produce a draft RLTP, which is broadly consistent with the Waikato Region's draft 2021-2051 RLTP. In particular, we share a priority focus on ensuring the ongoing economic efficiency of our strategic corridors, looking after our regional transport assets, improving road safety outcomes and addressing Climate Change.

4.0 SPECIFIC COMMENTS

4.1 Section 7: Inter-Regional Priorities (Page 71)

- 4.2 As a neighbouring region and key transport partner in delivering on inter-regional and upper North Island transport outcomes, we **support** the identification of shared priorities as outlined

in the joint statement from the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance, which is included in our respective draft RLTPs.

- 4.3 We support the references in Section 7 of your RLTP in respect to inter-regional priorities, including inter-regional connectivity and inter-regional rail services. We support the strategic areas of focus for the Upper North Island, especially in respect to:
- Hamilton to Auckland (SH1 and Rail) - focus on supporting delivery of growth initiatives through the Hamilton-Auckland corridor project for both people and freight with multi-modal transport choices along the corridor and within communities and businesses.
- 4.4 We appreciate the acknowledgement of the importance of inter-regional connections, particularly the connection with Waikato through to Hamilton. We also appreciate the input from Auckland stakeholders into the Hamilton-Auckland Corridor project and for the references in the Auckland RLTP.
- 4.5 While the inter-regional movement of freight is critical, we would like to see a stronger focus on the inter-regional movement of people by rail. A focus on moving people by rail is an essential component of managing the transport implications of population growth and land use change. It also provides resilience to disruptions to the road corridors.
- 4.6 We would like to see specific mention of the Te Huia start up passenger rail service in the Hamilton To Auckland section of the strategic areas of focus table and completing the stage 1B enhancements, alongside the mention of road improvements to Waikato Expressway and Southern Corridor.
- 4.7 A goal of the Te Huia service within the start-up period is for inter-regional passenger rail services to access Puhinui and through to the Strand. The service is currently funded by government and Waikato stakeholders and recognition of the benefits to Auckland of inter-regional passenger rail is sought.
- 4.8 Support the Waikato Regional Transport Committee's **request** for the inclusion of Te Huia Hamilton to Auckland passenger rail service Phase 1B enhancement as an activity of inter-regional significance in Section 7 of the Auckland RLTP.

4.9 Section 10: Appendices

- 4.10 We are **seeking Auckland Transport and Auckland Council's ongoing support** of the Te Huia start up inter-regional passenger rail service between Hamilton and Auckland.
- 4.11 Support the Waikato Regional Transport Committee's submission that Auckland Transport bring a new project into your funding tables in the Appendices in regard to Phase 1B enhancements of the Hamilton to Auckland passenger rail service as a project for the Auckland Region.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Once again, we thank Auckland Transport for the opportunity to submit on the draft Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2031.

6.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND HEARINGS

- 6.1 Should Auckland Transport require clarification of the feedback from Hamilton City Council staff, or additional information, please contact **Chris Allen** (General Manager Development) on 07 838 6748 or 021 224 7939, email chris.allen@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
- 6.2 Hamilton City Council representatives **do wish to speak** in support of this submission at the Auckland Transport hearings.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE