

Statement of Proposal

OTAGO SOUTHLAND REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT
PLANS 2021-31 (mid-term review)

1. Draft mid-term review of the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plans 2021-2031

Background

In 2021, the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees (RTCs) produced the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plans 2021-2031 (also referred to as the combined RLTP). In 2015, the Otago Regional Council (ORC) and Environment Southland (ES) requested that the RTCs from both regions collaborate to produce a combined RLTP. Together, the RTCs comprise of representatives from city and district councils, regional councils and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) (Waka Kotahi). A Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) must be developed every six years and reviewed every three years. The road controlling authorities within both regions have revised their programme of activities for the years 2024-2027 as a bid for funding from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF). As outlined in the RLTP, based on the information available in November 2023, the funding requested for the years 2024-2027 for Otago was approximately \$1,203,805,503 and for Southland it was approximately \$565,310,431. These figures are subject to change as a result of the development of long-term plans and the ongoing review of the activities proposed.

What is a Regional Land Transport Plan?

An RLTP sets out the common strategic transport direction to guide transport activities within a region, identifying an agreed regional long-term vision, objectives, as well as the transport investment priorities. Any projects seeking inclusion in the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and funding from NZTA through the NLTF must be included in an RLTP. The development of this RLTP has been guided by the Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) 2003 and subsequent amendments, the Ministry of Transport's Outcomes Framework, and the Government Policy Statement on land transport (GPS). The GPS sets out the Government's strategic direction for the land transport system and guides how the NLTF is invested. A new Draft GPS is expected to be released in early in 2024 and may result in some modification or changes to this combined RLTP.

Mid-term review

The LTMA requires RTCs prepare a RLTP for their region on a six yearly cycle. The LTMA also requires a mid-term review of the RLTP be completed within the six months of the expiry of the first three years of the RLTP.

The current combined RLTP was submitted to NZTA in June of 2021 and covered the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2027 in detail. The mid-term review therefore must be completed in the six months prior to the 30 June 2024. The combined RLTP has undergone its mid-term review and has been updated to reflect the changes that have occurred in the transport planning environment.

Vision, Objectives and Priorities

The combined RLTP outlines what we want our transport systems to achieve and sets out the priorities that will contribute to an effective, efficient, and safe land transport system. This RLTP outlines the 30-year vision, strategic objectives, and 10-year transport investment priorities.

This RLTP's long-term vision is:

A transport and land use system providing integrated, quality choices that are safe, environmentally sustainable and support the regions' wellbeing and prosperity.

The strategic objectives are:

- **Road Safety** - Prioritise high risk areas to create a safe transport system free of death or serious injury.
- **Asset Condition** - Prioritise maintenance and renewal to ensure the road network is fit-for-purpose and resilient.
- **Connectivity & Choice** - Develop a range of travel choices that are used by communities and business to connect.
- **Environmental Sustainability** - Facilitate understanding and support responses that help meet environmental and emissions targets.
- **Future Focused** - Position the regions to ensure proactive responses to change and challenges.

Mid-term proposal

As part of the mid-term review the 10-year transport investment priorities have been revised to reflect the transport system's needs. These priorities are:

- Optimise an efficient and accessible transport network through enhanced mode choice provision across the regions.
- Promote safety and wellbeing outcomes across the regional transport network.
- Enhance network maintenance and resilience to ensure community access and connectivity.

The road controlling and public transport authorities have revised their programme of activities for the years 2024-2027. The general focus for road controlling authorities is maintenance, operations, and renewals and in the urban areas of Dunedin and Queenstown, there is an emphasis on public transport and walking and cycling. There are also several improvement and resilience projects across both regions, as well as significant investments proposed by NZTA for the state highways.

Full document

Please see the full Regional Public Transport Plan 2021-2031 at orc.govt.nz/reviewRLTP

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

ORC and ES are seeking feedback on the combined RLTP, and any person may make a submission.

We would appreciate hearing your perspectives on:

- The strategic direction being proposed.
- The proposals put forward by local government and NZTA for 2024-27.
- The prioritisation and scheduling of these projects.
- Any other projects that need to be addressed.

The combined RLTP is available for inspection at:

- Otago Regional Council's website www.orc.govt.nz.
- Environment Southland's website www.es.govt.nz.
- Otago Regional Council's office located on Level 2, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin.
- Environment Southland's office on the corner of North Road and Price Street, Waikiwi, Invercargill.

Your submission should state your name, contact details, and whether you wish to be heard in support of your submission. Submissions will be made available for public inspection. Submissions made in reference to one region will be taken to be made just for that region, whilst submissions made in relation to both will be taken to be made for both.

You may make your submission online. If you prefer, you can send your submission by email to Environment Southland at consultation@es.govt.nz or to Otago Regional Council at rltp.submissions@orc.govt.nz. Alternatively, submissions can be posted to RLTP Consultation, Otago Regional Council, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054 or to Environment Southland, Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840.

If you require further information, please contact either Varghese Thomas (ORC) on 0800 474 082 or by email to varghese.thomas@orc.govt.nz or Russell Hawkes (ES) on 0800 76 88 45 or by email to russell.hawkes@es.govt.nz.

The submission period is open from 12 February 2024 and closes at 4pm on 15 March 2024.

Following the consultation and submission period, arrangements will be made for hearings to be held. The exact dates will be confirmed later. Please inform us whether you wish to be heard in support of your submission.

3. Next Steps

Following the hearings, all submissions will be acknowledged, and the final decision will be communicated. The RTCs will make amendments as required and the RLTP will be finalised. The final version will then be submitted to the individual regional councils for approval for submission to NZTA. This will enable the activities to be considered for inclusion into the NLTP.