

# Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan – Key outcomes from ministerial meeting in Wellington on 25 June 2018

## Attendees

- Central government ministers who attended included Hon Phil Twyford, Hon Julie Anne Genter and Hon Jenny Salesa.
- Local government representatives included mayors, councilors and chairs from Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Council, Hamilton City Council, Auckland Council.
- Iwi representatives from Waikato Tainui and Ngāti Pāoa attended the meeting.
- Auckland Council was represented by Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore, Planning Committee Chair Councillor Chris Darby and Chief of Strategy, Jim Quinn.

## Introduction

1. Ministers, chairs, mayors and councillors met in Wellington on 25 June 2018 to discuss the proposed Terms of Reference for the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan (the project) and to understand the potential transformative opportunities along the corridor.
2. In parallel with the project, central government announced that it will provide a new toolkit that will help to seek new ways of funding infrastructure, delivering growth and supporting communities.

## Terms of Reference

3. Minor amendments were made to the draft Terms of Reference, particularly around the map, the timeframe (the need to look beyond the current 30 year timeframe), and the speed and pace of delivery.
4. Full support was received from the parties present for the project to proceed.

## Transformative opportunities

5. Local government and iwi representatives presented three case studies at the meeting around:
  - i. Affordable housing at Ruakura and Meremere
  - ii. Waters and infrastructure
  - iii. Joint south Auckland and north Waikato settlement planning.
6. Deputy Mayor Cashmore and Mayor Sanson from Waikato District Council co-presented the Auckland-Waikato case study.
7. The case studies enabled central government to better understand the project's transformative initiatives.

### Understanding enablers and constraints

8. Meeting participants agreed that there was a need to understand the enablers and constraints of the project, particularly in the context of the issues that are preventing proposals along the corridor from moving forward. These enablers and constraints are to be included in the project deliverables.
9. There is also the need to look more closely into the environmental impacts of the project and associated proposals.
10. While the urban development authority legislation is being worked through, there is a need to work with current constraints (i.e. the Resource Management Act process). One way of getting around this is by trialling pilot projects.
11. Local government and iwi representatives stated that, rather than funding, they are seeking the tools needed to get projects up and running.

### Regional rail

12. Meeting participants agreed that rail is at the heart of the project.
13. Questions were raised as to whether the frequency of services provided by the interim rail option (twice daily between Hamilton and Auckland) was sufficient to bring about the land use response needed to transform the corridor.
14. It was acknowledged by some parties that the frequency of passenger rail services needed to increase to enhance transformational opportunities along the corridor. As part of the interim passenger rail business case, a higher frequency service pattern was investigated. It was noted that higher frequency is constrained by funding. Additional work will be undertaken to understand this issue.

### Land use integration

15. The project is an opportunity for education and health providers to work together to service communities along the corridor.
16. More work needs to be undertaken on water infrastructure.

### Next steps

17. The next governance meetings are on:
  - Friday 19 October 2018 10am – 12pm (in Auckland)
  - Friday 14 December 2018 10am – 12pm (in Hamilton)