

MEETING: Monday 16 April 2018 – 10.00 am Teleconference

MINUTES

Present:

Bruce Conaghan	Christchurch City Council
Dawn Shannon	Hamilton City Council
Andrea Nicol	Ruapehu District Council (for Warren Furner)
Chris Cordwell	AT (for Stephen Howard)
Eddie Cook	KiwiRail
Wayne Newman	(secretary)

Apologies

John Price	Wellington City Council
Stephen Howard	AT
Glenn Bunting	NZTA
Warren Furner	Ruapehu District Council

1. Deeds of Grant – progress and review

E. Cook provided an update. KR is moving to a simpler Deed document and looking to dispense with the annual fee. It is working with NZTA on a template for use on all level crossings. The group doubted that local authorities would want to accept a template developed without their input, especially as there would almost certainly be differences between local road crossings and state highways. It was agreed that the present draft should be disseminated to local authorities now to allow feedback through the workshops in May and completion of the document by mid-June. In response to a question on the process where information is lacking on who owns the land, E. Cook agreed to get a list of known road over rail and rail over road locations circulated to authorities.

Action: E. Cook to contact KR property team to arrange for draft Deed to be disseminated to local authorities and for a list of land ownership under crossings to be supplied to local authorities.

2. **Councils' forward liability, asset ownership and valuation**
A. Nicol reported council concerns where a new crossing is being proposed and the council would take over maintenance responsibilities. What would be the council's potential liability and how might it value what it was maintaining? E. Cook noted that new crossings should have very low annual maintenance costs, but even for passive crossings there remains the need for a fortnightly inspection and a monthly invoice to councils. The group agreed that any consideration of depreciation is for KR, as the asset is theirs. There is an agreed fee for the RCA contribution to the cost of maintaining that asset. This is set out in the Deed of Grant. It was agreed that it would facilitate the management of crossings to have markings, signage, lights, bells, barrier arms, mazes, etc, all consolidated and covered by the Deed of Grant. This could also include spreading renewal, upgrade and maintenance costs under the terms of the Deed of Grant to avoid large "surprise bills" in the future.

Action: Group members to consider these matters in feedback on the draft Deed of Grant.

3. **Extent and meaning of "front loading" of funding**
A. Nicol noted that differing interpretations of this funding arrangement are being presented to councils. E. Cook explained that NZTA has agreed to pay to KR the whole 2018-21 funding for upgrades in the current year to allow work on the list of projects identified to councils last year. KR is able to fund these upgrades 100% this year, with no call on local RCA funds. To proceed, however, these projects need to be included in the RLTP, but none have been. Although council roading managers received an email about this last year, the group agreed that the apparent lack of any formal notice from NZTA of a significant change to funding was a serious oversight.

Action: B. Conaghan to ask R. Alkema what notice was circulated of the need for councils to include works on the RLTP if they were not to miss out on 100% funding this year.

4. **Need for notice of works near road corridor**
After noting examples from almost every member, the group agreed that more needs to be done to ensure that contractors undertaking works near level crossings give appropriate notice and file a CAR.

5. Auditing of level crossing road approaches

E. Cook explained that having the RCA join KR on audits of signs and markings at level crossings had been proposed at the 2016 workshops and has several potential benefits. At present the KR safety audit looking out from the track is not able to assess the visibility of signs and markings viewed by approaching road traffic. Joint inspections would also ensure that the RCA had a better understanding of the monthly invoice for inspections and give an opportunity for people who needed to work together to meet. KR has no objection in principle. The group agreed that this could be proposed to the upcoming workshops and possibly trialed in one region.

Action: E. Cook to investigate the H&S or PTE requirements for a joint RCA-KR inspection.

6. Level Crossings within One Network Framework

The inclusion of Level Crossings in the draft GPS was noted and the group agreed that at some point work will need to be done to fit level crossing levels of service into the level of service assigned to the road within the One Network rating.

7. Long vehicles 'grounding': 'Low Ground Clearance' signs

It was agreed to leave discussion of this issue to the workshops and TCD Steering Group.

8. KiwiRail representation at RSAP and RLTC meetings

E. Cook explained that a KR representative had begun to attend the Southern RLTC meetings and proposed extending this to other regions. The group agreed that this would be timely with the changes within the draft GPS indicating greater investment in this area.

Action: E. Cook to provide background and details of proposed KR representation to W. Newman for drafting a formal proposal to go from the group to the Transport Special Interest Group of regional councils through LGNZ.

9. May workshops

The group noted that these are imminent and the group has a 30-minute slot on the agenda. It agreed that B. Conaghan will present at Christchurch and Dunedin, D. Shannon will present at Hamilton and AT will provide a presenter for Auckland. E. Cook offered to present at Palmerston North. J. Price (or failing him,

W. Newman) will be asked to present at Wellington. It was agreed to have a common presentation that will cover:

- An introduction to the RCA Forum
- The purpose of this group
- Its terms of reference
- Key issues:
 - Deed of Grant review
 - Awareness of funding changes
 - Need for CAR and notice of works
 - Ground clearance issues
 - High vehicle clearance issues with overhead wires
 - Need for corridor approach to safety – installing barrier arms at crossing on 100kmph road can increase risk of barrier arm strike

Action: W. Newman will prepare a draft presentation and circulate.

10. Other business

C. Cordwell reported that AT is undertaking trials of level crossing CCTV analytical software and expects to be able to report on these to a future meeting.

E. Cook reported that the Associate Minister of Transport had attended recent Tracksafe meetings with senior representatives from NZTA and there is increased momentum for KR to become an AO, so the necessary legislative changes might be put on the agenda soon.

Meeting closed: 11:30