

Logan will be leading this project and will now go away and work on these ideas. The plan is for the website to go live in June.

Round the Regions

Waikato Regional Council is in the final stages of completing the Regional Land Transport Plan and the Regional Passenger Transport Plan for Council adoption. Access and mobility is a key objective of the RLTP and particularly looking at the needs of transport disadvantaged. Cycling is also another area that is gaining real traction both with urban connections and the development of recreational cycle trails.

Matamata-Piako District Council is working on some cycle way development in Matamata and also looking at developing a connection between Matamata and Te Aroha.

Hauraki District and Thames-Coromandel are looking at building a 45km extension to the Hauraki Rail Trail connecting Kopu to Kaiaua. If funding is successful this will occur in the next year.

Tairua – looking to replace one of their buses. It was noted that they travel 42-44,000 kms every year on health related transport trips and another 100,000 kms on community transport trips.

Tokoroa - South Waikato District Council are working with community groups to investigate transport solutions in the District to get local people to essential services. Norm Barker is the project manager and he has really valued the assistance of others on the forum who have provided information and shared their own experiences working in this area. We will seek an update from Norm for the next Rural Transport Forum meeting.

Waihi – there is now a new St John's health shuttle running in Waihi.

Community Waikato – will be running a fun 'Dragon's Den' style competition to disperse \$15,000 of funding. There will be a panel of judges including some celebrities. This is a great opportunity to advance community projects and well worth having a go. The competition is open to all not-for-profit community groups. The competition will be staged during the Community Waikato conference ("Rising to the challenge – Hikitia kit e wero") to be held on 29 and 30 July 2015, in Hamilton.

Trust Waikato – has increased funding available including a significant Capital projects fund. Information on this and other opportunities to benefit from Trust Waikato's work is outlined in this information below. Thanks to Jane for providing this update.

As promised, here is the link to Trust Waikato's website which describes the new Significant Capital Projects Fund and updates people on the funding available for 2015.

<http://www.trustwaikato.co.nz/>

The main thing I want to emphasize is to get in early and talk to one of our donation advisors, so they can guide you on your application (for any of the funding rounds).

The regular funding workshops around the region are also listed (these are run in conjunction with Community Waikato, who take the registrations):

<http://www.trustwaikato.co.nz/News-and-Events/News/Funding-Workshops-for-2015>

Trust Waikato also run mini workshops several times a year as part of our community catch-up events (the Thames one was last week) – there will be one in Otorohanga on 7 May, Cambridge on 30 July, and Paeroa on 29 October – talk to a Donation Advisor to ensure you are on the list!

Finally, our Facebook page is relatively new – and a great source of information - so check us out:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trust-Waikato/184261432267>

2015 Meeting Topics – let the team know what you'd like to see on the agenda for our meetings for the remainder of this year. If you have any projects to share or ideas for presenters we'd love to hear them.

Meeting closed 12.30 for lunch.

Ludd Sparks then treated a number of us to a very insightful and interesting 'windows' tour. Thanks so much to Ludd and Val for this opportunity to learn more about the history of the local area and to experience first-hand the mining tunnels of the Karangahake Gorge. It was a wonderful addition to the meeting and something we must do more of in future.

Next meeting - Monday June 8th 2015.