

Wellington
Regional
Growth
Framework

Wellington Regional Growth Framework

Construction Clients Group Meeting - May 2021



The WRGF objectives and key challenges

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1** Increase housing supply, and improve housing affordability and choice
- 2** Enable growth that protects and enhances the quality of the natural environment and accounts for a transition to a low/no carbon future
- 3** Improve multi-modal access to and between housing, employment, education and services
- 4** Encourage sustainable, resilient and affordable settlement patterns/urban form that make efficient use of existing infrastructure and resources
- 5** Build climate change resilience and avoid increasing the impacts and risks from natural hazards
- 6** Create employment opportunities.

CHALLENGE 1

The region lacks sufficient and affordable housing supply and choice, housing affordability is declining and a significant investment in infrastructure is needed to enable enough housing and quality urban environments

CHALLENGE 2

Many of the urban areas in the region are vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, and as the region grows and becomes more densely settled, it will become increasingly important to improve resilience and protect and enhance the region's natural environment

CHALLENGE 3

There is inequitable access to social, educational and economic opportunities across the region

CHALLENGE 4

Mana Whenua and Māori in the region have poor access to affordable housing choices.

The level of growth

The Framework has been developed by considering:

- The population projections for the region, which suggest a population increase of between 91,000-151,000 additional people over the next 30 years.
- A growth scenario where there is a future regional population of 760,000 people. This is an additional 200,000 people on top of the current population.
- An increase in jobs of 100,000 over the 30-year period.



Key moves – the things we can do differently to make a big difference

1 **Harness growth to make the region's housing and urban areas more affordable and liveable and provide more housing choice – “walkable neighbourhoods”**

By providing for, and when appropriate actively partner (UDA powers) to deliver quality and more intensive vibrant mixed use urban development— where people can get a large percentage of their daily needs met locally (walkable neighbourhoods), in locations with good access to rapid transit or high frequency public transport in both future urban areas (greenfield) and urban renewal areas (brownfield).

2 **Make better use of the region's limited supply of well-located greenfield land**

By undertaking future urban area development differently we can ensure that more housing is delivered at medium and higher densities (such as terraced housing or apartments), and that new development is built to support multi-modal transport options for residents, with an emphasis on being rapid transit orientated where it is easy to access rapid transport services.

3 **Fully unlock the urban development potential of current and future rapid transit orientated corridors particularly the Let's Get Wellington Moving corridor.**

By leveraging our existing rail network and new investment in rapid transit, particularly on the Let's Get Wellington Moving corridor, to deliver transformational urban development including density changes and more affordable housing choices.

4 **Unlock new areas for housing and urban development and deliver greater regional resilience with a major east-west multi-modal corridor**

Explore the potential for a major multi-modal east-west corridor (or corridors) that unlocks new areas for housing and urban development, improves access to social and economic opportunities across the region (including employment and freight movement) and significantly improves resilience.

5 **Deliver transformational housing and development outcomes for Iwi/Māori**

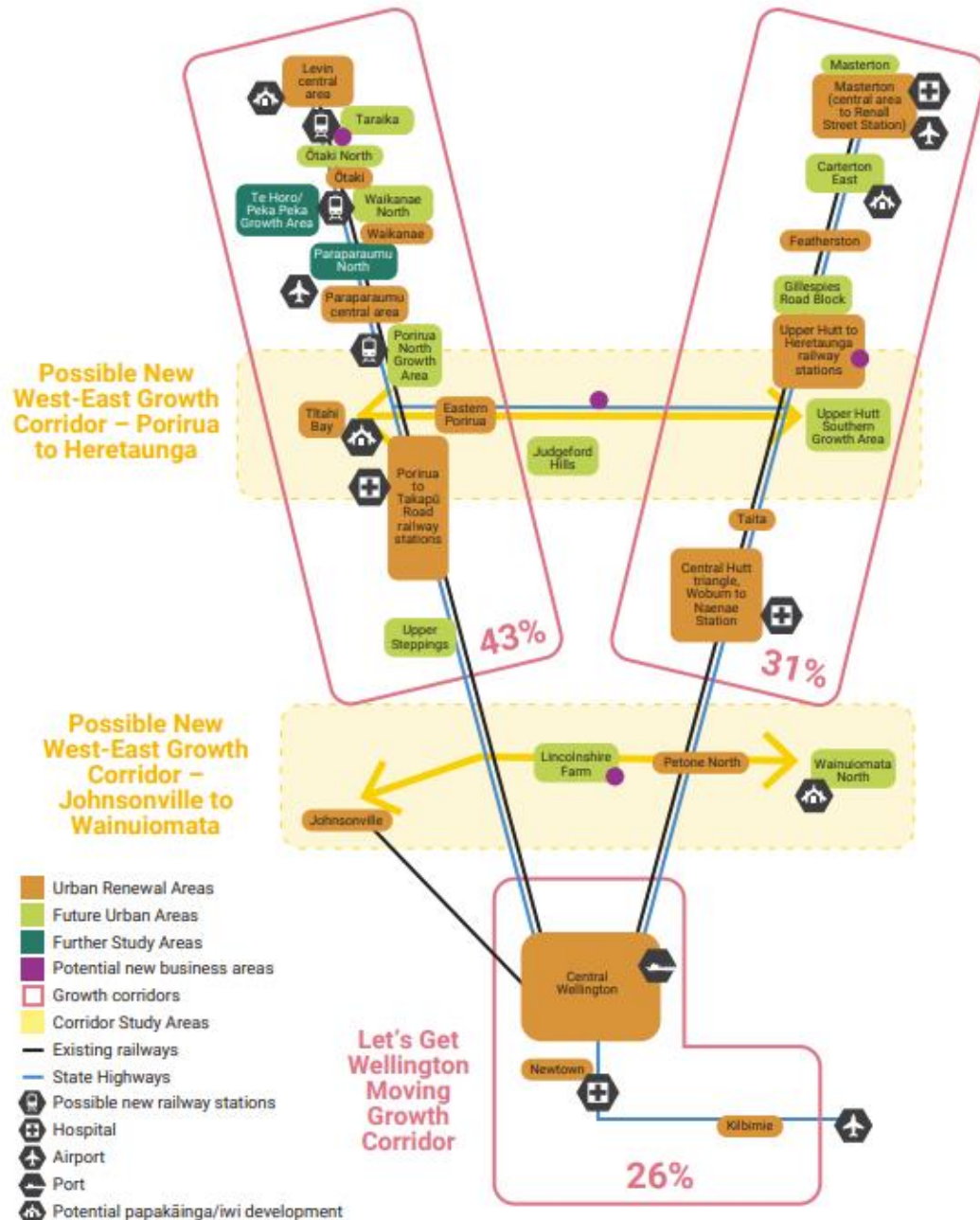
By partnering between iwi, the Crown and councils to deliver transformational housing, urban development and economic development outcomes for Iwi/Māori.

6 **Address the urban development challenges of climate change and transitioning to a zero-carbon economy at a regional scale**

By planning and undertaking projects regionally to address the urban development impacts of climate change, particularly impacts on infrastructure and where people live and work and work to transition to a zero-carbon economy.

Western Growth Corridor – Tawa to Levin

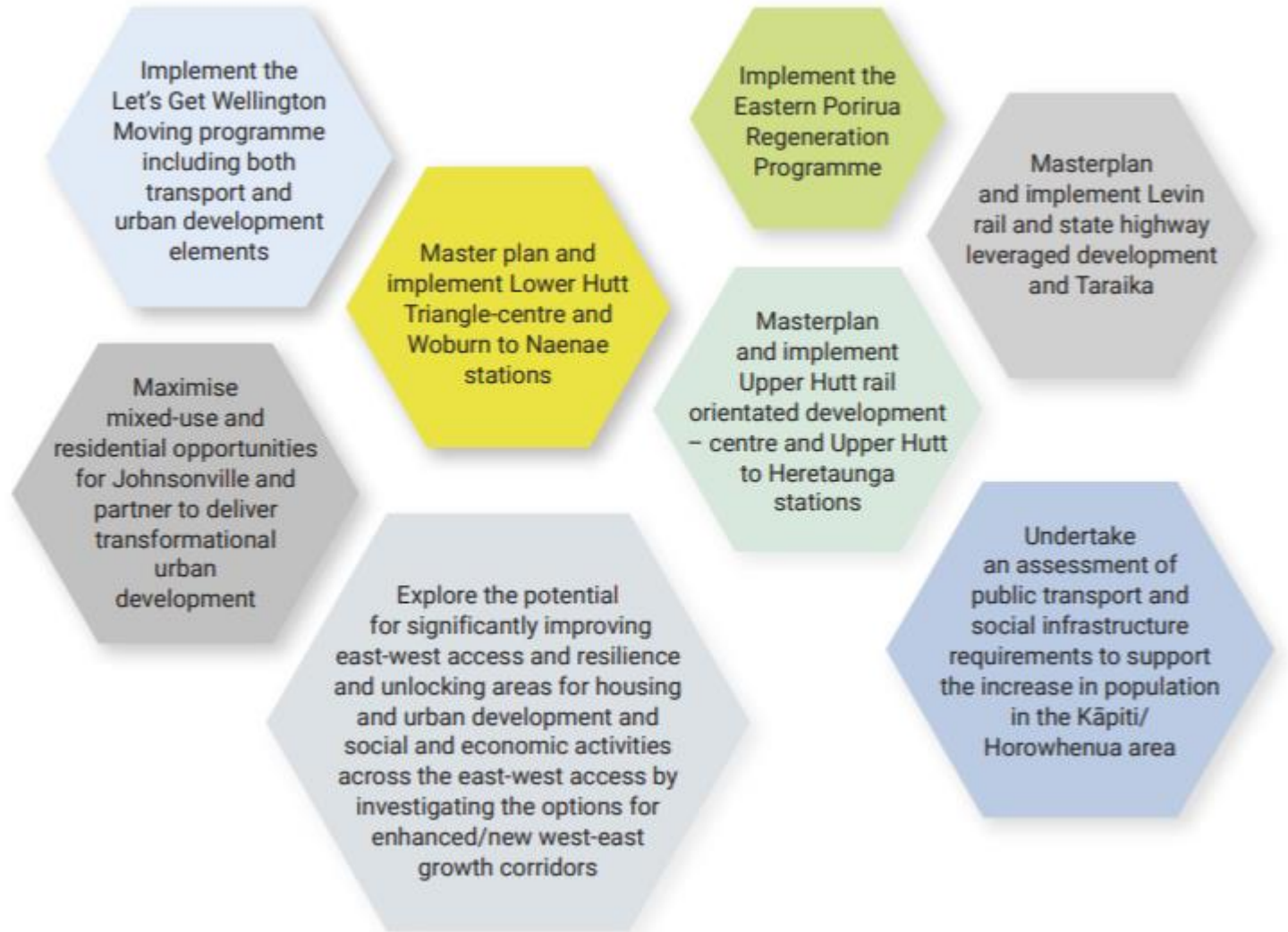
Eastern Growth Corridor – Hutt to Masterton



Key spatial initiatives

These key spatial initiatives are the ones that will have an early focus in the Framework.

Some are underway, some are underway in part and others we need to understand better before committing to them as key spatial projects.



Increase rapid transit rail/bus network accessibility, capacity and frequency including inter-regional connectivity leveraging address over-crowding provide for future growth and enable higher service frequencies.

Significantly improve multi-modal connections to rapid transit stops as part of master planning and delivery of higher density urban development in major centres and at nodes.

Review council zoning and other levers to enable higher densities within existing and new urban areas in appropriate locations identified in the regional growth framework

Develop a regional strategy for food production to ensure food security and efficient supply chains and to include an emphasis on employment opportunities.

Develop a 50-100-year regional three waters strategy to support anticipated growth, including upgrades to infrastructure (including bulk infrastructure) that supports growth in key development areas and improves environmental outcomes.

Establish a regional development approach and take a regional approach to using the range of Urban Development tools to drive transformational urban development in key greenfield and brownfield development areas and to improve housing supply and affordability.

Develop a regional approach to climate change impacts including coastal protection, longer terms development & retreat, including a programme for moving and managing three waters, rail, road assets at risk and protecting taonga.

Support iwi to complete a mana whenua driven spatial plan and complete iwi management plans for incorporation into an updated WRGF and partner to deliver improved housing, urban development and economic development outcomes for Iwi/Maori housing – including papakāinga, social and affordable housing options.

Plan for keeping central Wellington the key employment centre whilst establishing more jobs closer to where people live and/or are more accessible, led by a move of government jobs.

Establish a connected regional cycling network by eliminating pinch points on the network and delivering transformational projects to improve access.

Develop a regional climate change plan including a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emission and transition to a zero carbon and circular economy.

Key Initiatives

The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

Governance
(leadership, regional direction, alignment)

Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (Joint Committee)		
Wellington Regional Growth Framework	Regional Economic Development	Regional Economic Recovery
Councils x 10, Iwi x7, Ministers (up to 3), Independent Chair		

Support
(programme management, research, advice, coordination, administration)

Joint Secretariat		
CE's Forum (all partners)	Senior Managers (all partners)	Delivery agencies WellingtonNZ WREMO



What does this mean for you?

- This WRGF is expected to be similar to that required under the proposed Strategic Planning Act as part of the RM Review.
- Nationally this will provide a strategic and action plan view of longer-term infrastructure requirements which should align with the Infrastructure Commission role and work programme.
- The WRGF and its work programme will provide a view of the priority and timing of change within this region.
- Some things that need to be different:
 - Planning for growth and infrastructure will be joined up
 - It will start earlier than previously and think about solutions collectively e.g. Kapiti-Horowhenua greenfield development, West-east corridor assessment
 - Planning as a region to meet skills requirements - especially iwi resource management, builders and other house building related skills, rail infrastructure, three waters infrastructure. Creating local government, central government and iwi partnerships to achieve this.

