Council Transport Meeting - Minutes

Project: Live Nation / Rhythm and Vines Festival, Hooker Road

Date: 9 October 2026

Time: 9:30am

Location: Teams

Attendees:

Name	Role/Organisation
James Wardlaw (JW)	Waipā District Council
Kevin Briggs (KB)	Waikato District Council
Marne Cole (MC)	Barker & Associates
Josh Brajkovic (JB)	Commute

Item	Detail	Action
1	The proposal is for a four-day festival at the end of 2027, with approximately 35,000 attendees, five stages and a five-year consent term. Approximately 18,000 attendees would camp on-site, with the balance using day tickets and pick-up/drop-off arrangements.	
2	The festival site is within Waikato District, while the Cambridge Road/Hooker Road/Racecourse Road intersection is within Waipā. The intersection's crash history was discussed, particularly vehicles turning out of Hooker Road; Cambridge Road must remain open as a main bus route.	
3	Reducing Hooker Road to one lane for pedestrian use was not recommended because of potential traffic backlogs. A single-lane closure could be addressed through traffic management, while closing both lanes would require a road-closure application.	Project Team to investigate pedestrian provision without reducing Hooker Road to one lane.
4	Options included closing all or part of Racecourse Road at Cambridge Road, with resident or event access managed from the Forest Road end. Reducing right turns and simplifying the four-way intersection were discussed; no preferred layout was agreed.	Project Team to develop the Racecourse Road access and closure options, allowing for the recorded three-month road-closure notification period.
5	Pedestrian routes would use the existing Te Awa River Ride and temporary paths, with managed crossings of Cambridge Road. Stop-go control was discussed to move groups across together without holding pedestrians long enough to encourage uncontrolled crossing.	Project Team to refine pedestrian routes, crossing controls and pick-up/drop-off arrangements.

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6	Direct access from Cambridge Road into the parking property was discussed as an alternative to using the Racecourse Road intersection. A temporary access would require engineering authorisation through Waipā's development engineering team; a permanent entrance could also be explored for future events.	Project Team to explore temporary and permanent access options with Live Nation.
7	The proposed resource-consent approach is a high-level strategy demonstrating feasible traffic-management options, with the detailed event traffic management plan and CAR application developed in 2027. The proposal is to secure detailed-plan approval through consent conditions.	Project Team to send the refined strategy to JW and KB for written comments before lodgement, include the consultation minutes in the application, and coordinate the detailed plan with Live Nation.
8	NZTA engagement was underway through its environmental planning team; direct contact with journey manager Andrew Brosnan was also recommended. The strategy needs to explain approach routes to Hooker Road/Pencarrow Road and how travellers will be directed.	Project Team to contact Andrew Brosnan, document approach routes and investigate use of motorway variable message signs.
9	Sarah Ulmer was identified as the Te Awa River Ride contact, and Claire as the Waipā events-coordination contact. Potential concurrent cycling events near the velodrome were also identified for checking.	Project Team to obtain and circulate the stakeholder contact details, contact Sarah Ulmer and Claire, and check for concurrent cycling events.
10	JW identified Absolute Traffic as an experienced event traffic-management provider, noting his work with major sporting venues and relationships with local police.	Project Team to consider engaging.

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