



Minutes of the third meeting, eighth triennium, of the Passenger Transport Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.01am on Tuesday, 17 May 2011.

PRESENT Crs VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED (Chair), G Cox, EB Gordon (ex officio), C Sheldon, A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), and B Wilson (Palmerston North City Council).

IN ATTENDANCE

Manager Transport Services	Ms A Redgrave
Group Manager Regional Services and Information	Mr G Shirley
Committee Secretary	Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT (at various times during the Meeting)
Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), Mrs V Patton (Total Mobility Co-ordinator), Ms D Webber (Transport Officer), Ms J Archer (Communications & Promotions Officer), Mr R Malley (Palmerston North City Council), representatives from: Cab and Tour Charters Limited, Taxis Palmerston North Limited, Feilding Taxis Limited, Taxis Gold and Black (PN) Limited, and a member of the Press.

The Chairman drew attention to the Graduation Business Link 2011 Award presented in recognition of the free buses provided by Horizons Regional Council for the effect and contribution to the economic well-being of the Region.

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mayor B Duffy (Horowhenua District Council).

PT 11-13 **Moved** **Wilson/Anderson**

that an apology be received from Mayor Duffy (Horowhenua District Council).

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

PT 11-14

Moved

Anderson/Sheldon

that the minutes of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 17 March 2011, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

DEPUTATIONS

The Chairman advised there were four deputations to be heard.

Cab and Tour Charters Limited

Mr Peter Hope thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. After introducing himself as a Director of a private hire service, Mr Hope briefed Members on a proposal to transport mobility passengers and sought approval to be included in the subsidy provided through the Total Mobility Scheme. He said he would be happy to undertake a trial period of providing the service, if approval was granted.

Taxis Palmerston North Limited

Mr Tim Reddish, New Zealand Taxi Federation spoke on behalf of Taxis Palmerston North Limited. He was opposed to the proposal from Cab and Tour Charters Limited. He highlighted the significant infrastructure and staff training costs undertaken by taxi operators who participated in the Total Mobility Scheme. He believed private operators such as Cab and Tour Charters Limited would not be operating under the same conditions.

Mr Garry Hodge, Chairman, Taxis Palmerston North Limited spoke against the proposal. He believed taxi operators could provide a higher level of safety for mobility passengers than a private hire service company.

Feilding Taxis Limited

Mr John Bristow, Director, spoke in opposition to the proposal. He expanded on the costs involved to provide equipment, and time spent on staff training to correctly operate the equipment required to transport mobility passengers.

Taxis Gold and Black

Mr Dick Blanchard, Owner/Manager, spoke in opposition to the proposal. He said he welcomed competition in the industry but believed private hire service operators did not meet the same high standards as taxi operators.

There was full discussion and questions of clarification asked by Members after each speaker.

At the conclusion of the deputations/discussions the Chair advised that a report on the issues raised would be requested for the next Passenger Transport Committee meeting scheduled for 16 August, 2011, and invited the parties concerned to attend.

PT 11-15

Moved

Chettleburgh/Cox

requests that the Chief Executive reports on the issues raised during the deputations to the next Passenger Transport Committee meeting.

CARRIED

RAETIHI – OHAKUNE SERVICE REVIEW

Report No. 11-83

This report informed Members of a review into the Raetihi bus service. Mr Wallace (Transport Planner) spoke to the report.

PT 11-16

Moved

Chettleburgh/Cox

that the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report into the review of the Raetihi - Ohakune bus service; and
- b. **notes** that a decision on the future of the service will be made at the August 2011 Passenger Transport committee meeting following a review of the service.

CARRIED

LEVIN URBAN BUS SERVICE UPDATE

Report No. 11-85

This report informed Members of proposed changes to the Levin urban bus service. Mr Wallace (Transport Planner) referred to a meeting held on 12 May with the Horowhenua Community Health Shuttle Trust and the Community Services Van Trust. Preliminary agreement had been reached whereby the Community Services Van Trust vehicle would be utilised with volunteer drivers sourced from the Community Health Shuttle Trust. It was hoped that once arrangements were finalised, the service could be in operation before the end of June 2011. Mr Wallace clarified Members' questions around the intended timetable for the service, and the legality of using volunteer drivers.

PT 11-17

Moved

Chettleburgh/Sheldon

that the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the Levin urban service.

CARRIED

DRAFT REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2021

Report No. 11-84

This report was to approve the Horizons' draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) for public consultation. In presenting the report Ms Lowe (Transport Planner) recapped on the requirements under the Public Transport Management Act 2008 if Council wished to financially support any public transport services. She referred to and explained the farebox recovery ratio policy and expanded on some of the initiatives that could be considered to improve the farebox recovery ratio.

Members fully considered the draft RPTP and provided comment and suggestions in regard to: the rewording of Policy 20; the possibility of providing some assistance toward the Wanganui Tram project; provide initiatives to ensure that the transport needs addressed the specific requirements of the public, in particular, the provision of suitable public transportation for health patients.

Discussion ensued about the need to liaise with politicians and hospital boards in regard to a funding policy to address the issue of providing suitable transportation to and from health services around the Region.

PT 11-18

Moved

Chettleburgh/Wilson

that the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **approves** the draft Regional Public Transport Plan for public consultation.

CARRIED

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES FARE REVIEW 2011

Report No. 11-86

This report was to:

- a. review bus fares in the Horizons' Region;
- b. discuss and decide on fare increases on some services.

Ms Lowe (Transport Planner) explained the background to the farebox recovery policy and highlighted key points in the item. As the cost of service provision was currently increasing at a higher rate than fare revenue, she commented on the importance of increasing the farebox recovery ratio, and accordingly proposed a target of between 40% - 45%. Ms Redgrave (Manager Transport Services) expanded on Table 3 which provided a comparison of fares in the Region with fares in other cities, and Table 4 which provided three options for consideration. Members fully discussed and considered the proposed bus fares provided in the options and ultimately recommended the adoption of Option Two.

PT 11-19

Moved

Wilson/Gordon

that the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the review of the bus fares in the Horizons' Region;
- b. **approves** Option 2 as outlined in paragraph 21 of the review:
 - a catch-up fare increase for the urban bus services in Palmerston North and Wanganui to take effect in 2011-12;
 - an increase to the Stage 1 fare on the Feilding to Palmerston North service to ensure consistency with the Palmerston North urban service fares;
 - Increased contributions from Massey University and UCOL in lieu of the fare increase;
 - No change to the Marton-Palmerston North, Levin-Palmerston North, Ashhurst and Raetihi bus services;
 - An annual formal review of fares thereafter.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members discussed and commented on the measures that could be taken to provide an improved farebox recovery ratio.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

Confirmed

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN