



Minutes of the fourth meeting, eighth triennium, of the Passenger Transport Committee of Horizons Regional Council held at BNZ Partners, 203 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.03am on Tuesday, 16 August 2011.

PRESENT Crs VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED (Chair), EB Gordon, C Sheldon, A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), and B Wilson (Palmerston North City Council, from 10.15am).

IN ATTENDANCE

Manager Transport Services	Ms A Redgrave
Group Manager Regional Services and Information	Mr G Shirley
Committee Secretary	Ms G McRae

ALSO PRESENT Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), Ms D Webber (Transport Officer), Ms V Patton (Total Mobility Coordinator), Mr R Malley (Palmerston North City Council), Mr R Austin (Palmerston North Taxis), Mr G Hodge (Palmerston North Taxis), Mr R Blanchard (Gold and Black Taxis) and members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor G Cox and Mayor B Duffy (Horowhenua District Council).

PT 11-20

Moved

Anderson/Sheldon

that apologies be received from Cr Cox and Mayor Duffy (Horowhenua District Council).

CARRIED

NOTED:

Councillors Barrow and Plowman gave their apologies for absence but were not members of the Committee.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Mr Dick Austin, from Palmerston North Taxis addressed the Committee on Item 6 - Private Hire Services – Participation in Total Mobility scheme. Mr Austin noted the longevity of Palmerston North Taxi's participation in the Total Mobility scheme and told of his experience that elderly people enjoyed the individualised service that Taxis were able to offer. He highlighted to the Committee his concerns regarding the safety and security of Private Hire companies participating in the scheme when they were not subject to the same regulations as taxi companies.

Mr Garry Hodge, from Palmerston North Taxis addressed the Committee on Item 6 also. He supported Mr Austin's comments and also noted the fast service of his taxi company – six minutes in responding to a pick-up as opposed to the much longer waiting times that may be involved with using a Private Hire vehicle.

Councillor Wilson joined the meeting at 10.15am.

Mr Dick Blanchard, of Gold and Black Taxis also spoke to Item 6. Mr Blanchard responded to many aspects of the report, including the full-time availability of taxis, individualism of service, the stringent criteria, safety regulations that taxi companies were required to meet, and queries regarding the interpretation on 'pre-booking' in legislation and used by private hire companies to operate. Mr Blanchard responded to questions of the Committee members for clarification.

LATE ITEMS

The Chair advised that there was one late item, part two of item 10, an update to the Wanganui Urban Bus Services Tender. He advised that this would be heard in public excluded session for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

PT 11-21 **Moved** **Wilson/Gordon**

That the Passenger Transport Committee agrees to consider the Wanganui Urban Bus Services Tender update.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

PT 11-22 **Moved** **Gordon/Anderson**

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

CARRIED

PRIVATE HIRE SERVICES – PARTICIPATION IN TOTAL MOBILITY SCHEME

Report No. 11-136

The purpose of the report was to discuss and decide on –

- a. Widening of the Total Mobility scheme to allow the participation of private hire companies as operators;
- b. To consider an application from a private hire company to join the Total Mobility scheme.

The report was introduced by Ms Redgrave (Manager Transport Services) and Ms V Patton (Total Mobility Coordinator) who highlighted various aspects of the report noting that applications for Private Hire Companies to participate in the scheme had been declined in the past. They outlined advice given by various agencies including the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) which had informed their report. The Committee had a full discussion about the benefits and disadvantages of opening up the scheme to private hire companies, noting that the decision would not impact only the sole applicant in this instance, but other private hire companies in the future. The safety and security of Total Mobility users was discussed, with the stringent regulations governing taxi operations including new security measures brought in on 1 August

2011 being discussed at length. Failure of taxi companies to ensure the safety of their passengers (as reported in the media) was also addressed during the discussion.

PT 11-23

Moved

Chettleburgh/Gordon

That the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report on the application from a private hire service to join the Total Mobility scheme;
- b. **approves** option a. as follows:

Declines to accept private hire vehicles on the Total Mobility scheme where the service can be provided by taxis, and therefore declines Mr Hope's application.

Against (b): Cr Wilson
CARRIED

REVIEW OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES FOR 2010-11

Report No. 11-137

This report was to inform Members of the performance of subsidised services in 2010-11. Ms Redgrave introduced Ms D Webber (Transport Officer) who had prepared the report for the first time. Ms Lowe (Transport Planner) spoke about the performance of each service including passenger numbers and trends. She clarified Members' questions including the impact of the Supergold scheme, costs per passenger and the security of New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) funding for the services.

PT 11-24

Moved

Sheldon/Anderson

That the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the year end report on subsidised passenger services in the Region.

CARRIED

REVIEW OF TOTAL MOBILITY AND HEALTH SHUTTLE ACTIVITIES FOR 2010-11

Report No. 11-138

This report informed Members of the performance of subsidised services in 2010-11. Ms V Patton (Total Mobility Coordinator) spoke about the performance of each of the schemes listed, and answered questions as required. She noted that funding had recently been approved by the MidCentral District Health Board for the Horowhenua Health shuttle but that this was accompanied by a significant loss of funding from the Horowhenua Community Trust.

PT 11-25

Moved

Chettleburgh/Gordon

That the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the year end report for Total Mobility and health shuttle services in the Region.

CARRIED

PALMERSTON NORTH URBAN AND MASSEY BUS SERVICES TENDER

Report No. 11-139

This report was to approve the retendering of the Palmerston North urban and Massey bus services in late 2011. The report was introduced by Ms Lowe (Transport Planner) noting that a major service review was undertaken in 2008 which had helped inform the process. She acknowledged that no major changes were proposed and that submissions on the draft Regional Public Transport Plan had closed last Friday with hearings scheduled for 15 September 2011. Feedback from this would help inform future changes to the services. In discussion, Members were assured that the Council was ensuring that the financial contributions from Massey University and UCOL remained current and that negotiations were nearly complete to increase these contributions.

PT 11-26

Moved

Chettleburgh/Wilson

- a. **receives** the report into the review of the Palmerston North urban services contract; and
- b. **approves** the tendering of Palmerston North urban services contract.

CARRIED

The Chair advised that Item 11: Review of Raetihi - Ohakune Bus Services would be taken next. There were no objections.

REVIEW OF RAETIHI – OHAKUNE SERVICE

Report No. 11-141

This report informed Members of a review undertaken of the Raetihi - Ohakune bus service. The report was introduced by Mr Wallace (Transport Planner) who noted that the Council would be using the closed contest procedure outlined by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) procurement manual.

PT 11-27

Moved

Gordon/Chettleburgh

That the Passenger Transport Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report into the review of the Raetihi – Ohakune bus service;
- b. **approves** the retendering of the contract, with a final decision on continuation of the service to be made in light of the tender price;
- c. **delegates** responsibility for the final decision on the service to the Horizons' Members of the Passenger Transport Committee.

CARRIED

WANGANUI URBAN BUS SERVICE TENDER RESULT

Report No. 11-140

This report informed Members on the tender process undertaken for the Wanganui urban bus service contract.

PT 11-28

Moved

Chettleburgh/Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the report into the retendering of the Wanganui urban bus services.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' questions.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

PT 11-29

Moved

Chettleburgh/Gordon

that the public be excluded from the remainder of the Committee meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX1 Wanganui Urban Bus Service Tender Update	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.

CARRIED

The meeting went into the public excluded part of the meeting at 11.54am and returned to open session at 12.07pm.

The meeting closed at 12.07pm.

Confirmed

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN