



Minutes of the public meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee to hear submissions on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021 at 10:04 am on Thursday, 15 September 2011, held in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs V Chettleburgh QSM ED (Chair), G Sheldon, G Cox, EG Gordon (Horizons Regional Council), Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council), Cr B Wilson (Palmerston North City Council).

IN ATTENDANCE Manager Transport Services Ms A Redgrave
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT at various times during the Meeting
Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information),
Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner),
Ms V Patton (Total Mobility Co-ordinator), Ms D Webber (Transport Officer), Mrs C Rowe (Media & Communications Manager), Mr I Lowe (Co-ordinator District Liaison), and a member of the Press.

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

PTC (SH) 11-01 **Moved** **Anderson/Sheldon**

*that the Committee **accepts** an apology from Mayor Duffy.*

CARRIED

BACKGROUND REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2021

Report No. 11-149

This report provided the background and introduction to the submissions made on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2010-2040 (Draft RPTP).

Ms Lowe (Transport Planner) introduced the item and advised that a total of 26 submissions had been received.

PTC (SH) 11-02 **Moved** **Gordon/Anderson**

that the Committee:

- a. **acknowledges** with appreciation the input made by sector groups and individuals to the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021;
- b. **acknowledges** that all submissions have been acknowledged in writing; and

- c. ***instructs** the Chief Executive to forward a copy of the adopted Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021, when it becomes available, to all submitters.*

CARRIED

FORMAT FOR HEARING ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Report number 11-150

This report set out a timetable to hear oral submissions on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021. .

The Chairman explained that five (5) minutes had been allocated for submitters to highlight significant points in their submission or elaborate on particular details, and this would be followed by 10 minutes for Committee Members to ask questions of clarification.

The Chairman invited the first submitters to speak to the Committee on behalf of their submission.

Debbie Lord spoke to her submission and expanded on the importance of providing a public bus service after 6pm. She referred in particular to the youth left with no transport in the evening to get home from part-time jobs, recreational, and social activities. She encouraged a closer liaison network with schools and employers to cater to youth requirements for public transport, and for improved public advertising of transport hearings. Members asked questions of clarification on matters raised.

Lila Matheson asked for consideration to be given to upgrading the existing railway station building and incorporating the bus terminal in the same building. She expanded on her proposal and outlined the benefits that could be provided. Mrs Matheson answered questions of clarification about objectives contained in her proposal.

Denise Servante, Rangitikei District Council represented the Rangitikei District Council (RDC) and was also a member of the Whanganui/Taranaki Community Response Model Forum, a role in which the RDC supported. She expanded on specific points from the submission and noted that access to services was a number one identified priority in the feedback received from the Public Consultation and Focus Group Consultation Events held in the Rangitikei between February and June 2011. She highlighted a willingness to work with Horizons on specific transport actions and asked that consideration be given to using the Rangitikei District as a case study. Members asked questions on points raised and about the willingness and ability of ratepayers to contribute funding should an improved level of transport services be available in the Rangitikei district.

Craig Holdaway spoke to his submission and highlighted the importance of presenting a user friendly passenger transport system to the community. He expanded on some of his suggestions and referred to the presentation of bus stops, shelters, signage, route simplification, promotional activities, and a less confusing bus timetable as specific actions to help improve the public perception of the passenger transport system. Members asked questions of clarification and commented that it would be useful to look at simplifying the current bus timetable and bus routes.

Glen Young distributed some updates to the submission from **UCOL**. He introduced Lisa Hooker from Opus who had helped in the preparation of the submission. He said UCOL was generally in support of the purpose of the draft Regional Public Transport Plan. He expanded on the comments in the submission made against specific policies in the Plan. Members asked about UCOL operating hours and the level of service required to meet student needs from rural areas and from within the Palmerston North City area.

Dr Christine Cheyne explained her role at Massey University as Associate Professor, Resource and Environmental Planning and her particular interest in transport planning. She spoke to her submission and expanded on the need to consider the characteristics of the region when undertaking land transport planning, the influence of rising petrol prices on transport patronage, the need to recognise future anticipated demand for public transport, the provision of links to other forms of transport, and the need for much bolder leadership in land transport planning to be provided by Horizons Regional Council. Dr Cheyne fully endorsed the idea of a joint working party on public transport with Horizons Regional Council, Palmerston North City Council and other key stakeholders. Members asked questions of clarification on points of interest.

Chris Teo-Sherrell – The Chairman clarified that Mr Teo-Sherrell was submitting as an individual and not as a Palmerston North City Councillor. Mr Teo-Sherrell thanked Members for the opportunity to speak. He presented a powerpoint detailing the requirements for a competitive passenger transport service, the economic advantages and benefits to households, graphs depicting options/costings/variations for providing a new and improved bus service, and a map outlining proposed bus routes. In summary, Mr Teo-Sherrell asked that Council devoted the required resources to undertake a detailed analysis on the economic merits of providing a competitive passenger transport system, and stressed the urgency for Council to provide much bolder leadership for the provision of future passenger transport. Mr Teo-Sherrell was available to answer questions of clarification. The Chairman thanked Mr Teo-Sherrell for his time and commitment in putting together his submission.

Michelle Bisset, for The Rangitikei Transport Issues Steering Group illustrated the transport difficulties faced by some people in rural communities and raised concern about the lack of funding and significance given to rural roads. She said her Group would welcome the opportunity to work with local authorities, particularly Horizons Regional Council, to look at new ways of solving transport problems faced by rural communities. Ms Bisset expanded on a number of suggested avenues and areas where Horizons could strengthen their role in the provision of transport needs for the community. Members asked questions of clarification.

Astrid Hendra, Marton resident said she was a member of the Marton Community Committee and the Transport Steering Group. Mrs Hendra detailed her family health issues and referred to the many appointments and emergency trips made to both the Wanganui and Palmerston North hospital. She highlighted the transport issues faced by herself and members of the community and expanded on several areas that could be addressed to help improve the level of service, in particular, the provision of quality information about all available transport services, increased support for the St John Health Shuttle service, and subsidised fares on commercial services. Members asked questions of clarification.

The submission from the **Wanganui District Council** was addressed by **Mr Julian Reweti** and two colleagues. They identified the need to provide affordable access to health services for an ageing population, and spoke about the inter-regional labour flow which required an accessible public transport network to ensure labour flows could move efficiently within the region. They requested that a strategic taskforce be established to discuss future transport needs for the Region.

Cr Jim Jefferies, Deputy Mayor, and Mr Peter Crawford, Economic Development Officer, Palmerston North City Council addressed the submission. Cr Jefferies expanded on proposed actions for enhancement to bus services and highlighted the importance of providing facilities for cyclists to either lock-up cycles at transport hubs or provide bike racks on buses. They recommended that a joint working party between the City Council and Horizons Regional Council be established to address specific issues at officer level. Mr Crawford spoke about the urgency required to increase and improve public transport services in order to achieve strong growth in patronage. Members asked questions of clarification on points made in the submission.

PTC (SH) 11-03

Moved

Anderson/Sheldon

that the Committee:

*a. **hears and considers** each submission.*

CARRIED

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS.

Report No, 11-151

This report considered written submissions on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021.

Written submissions were received from:

Bruce Thomson
Kate McKenzie
David Parham
Ian Robertson
Delaney Myers, New Zealand Transport Agency
Jenny Loveday
Jean Martin
Kathleen Murdoch
Rocky Renquist, Sustainable City Group
Lauren Tamehana, Wanganui District Health Board
Kashmir Kaur, Ministry of Education
Dr Robert Holdaway, MidCentral Health Board
Richard Blanchard
Brent Barrett, Palmerston North City Environmental Trust
Imran Muhammad

Members considered all written submissions on the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021.

PTC (SH) 11-04

Moved

Anderson/Sheldon

that the Committee:

- a. **peruses and considers** each submission.

CARRIED

PTC (SH) 11-05

Moved

Anderson/Wilson

that the Committee:

- a. **acknowledges** with delight the quality and high standard of submissions.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.35pm

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN