



Minutes of the eighth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 1.00pm on Tuesday, 18 August 2009.

PRESENT Crs VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED (Chair), L Bailey (from 1.13pm), A Main, G P Murfitt, A Anderson, and C Teo-Sherrell

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

ALSO PRESENT Cr EB Gordon, Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information to 2.47pm), Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mrs V Patton (Total Mobility Coordinator to 2.21pm), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner), and Mr J Beard (Member of the Public from 1.11pm to 1.55pm)

APOLOGIES Crs L Bailey (late), and B Wilson
An apology was tendered from Cr M Plowman

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items advised.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no Conflicts of Interest.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

PT 09-60

Moved

Main/Chettleburgh

that the minutes of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 19 May 2009, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

REVIEW OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES FOR 2008-09

Report No. 09-114

This report was to inform Members of the performance of subsidised services in 2008-09.

The Transport Planner spoke to the item and referred to key points in the report. She was pleased to report on the upsurge in patronage on urban services in Palmerston North, and in particular on the Massey Unlimited Access Scheme, the steady growth sustained over the past year for the Wanganui urban service, the gradual increase in the provision of timetables at bus stops and shelters in Palmerston North and Wanganui. She reported a slight decline in patronage overall in regard to some of the community services, in particular the Foxton community, and gave an update on the usage of Supergold Card.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification around the figures in the report which outlined the total number of trips per year made on a service and requested that the figures show the cost per year of a service, and the number of passengers per trip, the disappointing patronage of the Linton shopper service and the range of promotions undertaken to date, and an update on the possibility of introducing bike racks on buses.

PT 09-61

Moved

Main/Bailey

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

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

CARRIED

REVIEW OF TOTAL MOBILITY AND HEALTH SHUTTLE ACTIVITIES FOR 2008-09

Report No. 09-116

This report was to inform Members of the subsidised services in 2008-09.

The Total Mobility Coordinator (TMC) presented the report and commented on progress with the development of contracts with assessment agencies and transport operators, the hoist flat payment of \$10 to operators for each time a hoist was used, the new on-line voucher track database system which easily allowed the Total Mobility Coordinator to access voucher distribution reports from one central point, the climbing patronage of the Horowhenua Health Shuttle service, and gave an update on the Order of St John Health Shuttle services in Dannevirke and Tararua. She noted that the coordinators involved in recruiting and training volunteer drivers for the Tararua Health Shuttle had received an award for their efforts. The Chair congratulated the Total Mobility Coordinator on the pleasing results of the Health Shuttle services, and thanked New Zealand Transport Agency for providing a subsidy for the services.

There was discussion and comment on the funding for Health Shuttle services, clarification on the \$10 hoist flat payments, questions of clarification asked on the different subsidy rates and funding arrangements for the concessionary fare schemes, and the possibility of increasing the subsidy rate to encourage more users. The TMC commented that education, rather than an increase in subsidy payments would be beneficial to encourage more users to the service.

PT 09-62

Moved

Colling/Bailey

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

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

CARRIED

REVIEW OF WANGANUI URBAN SERVICES

Report No. 09-115

This report was to inform Members of the intention to review the Wanganui urban bus services in the 2009-10 year before re-tendering of the services in 2010-11.

The Transport Planner (TP) advised that although the service had experienced an increase in patronage over the past 12 months, the revenue recovery was still not meeting the 40% minimum that was required in the Regional Passenger Transport Plan. There were questions of clarification on the consultation for the upcoming review, discussion on the issues to be considered, and consideration given to the best way of publicising the review in order to get customer feedback. Suggestions included: Holding a public meeting to ask the community what their expectations were, have a presence at the Wanganui Saturday markets, and a survey of passengers while travelling on the services.

PT 09-63

Moved

Chettleburgh/Colling

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the report on the upcoming review of the Wanganui urban bus service.

CARRIED

WANGANUI-PALMERSTON NORTH COMMUTER SERVICE

Report No. 09-117

This report was to inform Members of progress into launching a Wanganui-Palmerston North commuter bus service.

The Transport Planner (TP) spoke to the report and advised that as it was likely that no additional funding from the 2009-12 National Land Transport Programme would be available for the service, officers were in the process of preparing a review item to go to the New Zealand Transport Agency requesting the additional funds required to operate the service. It was important that a decision on funding be made as soon as possible so that the service could be operating by the middle of November 2009. The tender documents were issued in mid-March-2009 and had a lead-in time of only eight months before they would lapse and require to be re-issued.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification.

PT 09-64

Moved

Chettleburgh/Colling

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the report on the update of investigations into a Wanganui-Palmerston North commuter service; and
- b. **instructs** officers to submit a review request for additional funding from the NZTA should approved allocations in the 2009-2012 National Land Transport Programme not be sufficient to cover the proposed service.

CARRIED

PASSENGER TRANSPORT PROMOTIONS STRATEGY

Report No. 09-118

This report was to present Members with the draft Transport Promotions Strategy for approval.

The Transport Planner outlined the aims of the Promotions Strategy. A calendar of events mapping out the type of events for each month of the year would be prepared once the Strategy had been approved.

Members made comment around achieving the objectives outlined in the Strategy and how these would be reported on, initiating a review date, and clarification on the type of events, including how they would be coordinated.

PT 09-65

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bailey

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **approves** the Transport Promotions Strategy.

CARRIED

RESULTS OF COMMUNITY FUND (T FUND) APPLICATION – LEVIN URBAN BUS SERVICES

Report No. 09-119

This report was to inform Members of the result of an application to the New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) national review group for the use of Community Transport Funds for the Levin urban bus service.

The Transport Planner outlined the reasons given as to why the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) review group did not accept the application for the use of T Funds, and the options available to the Subcommittee going forward. Members strongly supported the option to query the decision of NZTA review group and re-apply for the funding, including submitting the extra information as outlined in the item in support of the application.

Crs Bailey and Colling would seek a meeting with Hon Nathan Guy, (MP for Otaki, Associate Transport Minister), to outline the concerns of the Subcommittee on the issue to him.

PT 09-66

Moved

Colling/Bailey

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the report on the Community Transport Fund application for the Levin urban bus service; and
- b. **authorises** officers to make a further application to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to secure Community Transport Funding for the Levin urban bus service.

CARRIED

PALMERSTON NORTH BUS TERMINAL UPDATE

Report No. 09-121

This report was to inform Members of developments regarding the investigation into a new Palmerston North bus terminal.

The Transport Planner (TP) expanded on the report and outlined the discussions held by the working party around the issues with the current urban and long-distance facilities. A further workshop was scheduled to be held on 19 August 2009 to confirm the Terms of Reference and scope for the project, and an update from that workshop would be given at the next Subcommittee meeting.

In answer to questions raised in regard to funding for the terminal, Members were advised that \$10 million had been allocated towards design and construction of the terminal in Palmerston North City Council's Long-term Council Community Plan 2009-19.

PT 09-67

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bailey

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the Palmerston North bus terminal update.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Anderson advised of a number of patients who travelled to Palmerston North from Wanganui several times of week for medical treatment, and asked if there was any funding available to help with their travel expenses. Cr Colling advised that his understanding was that MidCentral Health would pay the fare for patients to travel by taxi.

PUBLIC EXCLUDED

PT 09-68

Moved

Chettleburgh/Main

that the public be excluded from the remainder of the Subcommittee meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public was 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 was 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 Update on KiwiRail Passenger Services to Wellington <i>Report No. 09-120</i>	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 adjourned to the public excluded part of the meeting at 2.40pm and resumed at 3.02pm.

The meeting closed at 3.03pm

Confirmed

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN

ANNEX

A Previous Public Excluded Passenger Transport Minutes of 18 August 2009

CONFIDENTIAL



At the Passenger Transport meeting held on 17 November 2009, resolution PX 09-21 stated that the Public Excluded minutes of the Passenger Transport meeting held on 18 August 2009, be moved to the public part of the meeting.

Minutes of that part of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, 18 August 2009, from 2.40pm to 3.02pm, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North to which the public were excluded, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the specific grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA are 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 Update on KiwiRail Passenger Services to Wellington Report No. 09-120	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.

PRESENT Crs VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED (Chair), L Bailey, A Main, GP Murfitt, A Anderson, D Colling, and C Teo-Sherrell

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

ALSO PRESENT Cr EB Gordon, Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information to 2.47pm), Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), and Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner)

APOLOGIES Apologies were noted in the public part of the meeting.

UPDATE ON KIWIRAIL PASSENGER SERVICES TO WELLINGTON

Report No. 09-120

This report was to inform Members of the project to double-track and electrify the portion of rail between Paraparaumu and Waikanae and its potential effects on the viability of the Capital Connection rail service between Palmerston North and Wellington.

Consideration was given to the report and officers comments. Members agreed it was important to have an enhanced commuter service between Palmerston North and Waikanae once electrification of the rail line between Paraparaumu and Waikanae was completed. To achieve the best outcome for the communities north of Waikanae it was resolved that a letter be written to KiwiRail asking for an enhanced level of service, and that Cr Murfitt raise the matter at the next Regional Chiefs' meeting for discussion.

Recommendations (b) and (c) were included to reflect the discussion.

PX PT 09-17

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bailey

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Land Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the report on the update of the Capital Connection rail service;
- b. **requests** that a letter be written to KiwiRail outlining concerns at the potential loss of the commuter services to Wellington and **seeks** an assurance that an enhanced level of service from Palmerston North to Wellington would be maintained once electrification of the rail line from Paraparaumu to Waikanae was completed; and
- c. **requests** that Cr Murfitt **raises** the matter at a Regional Chiefs' meeting for a continued commuter service from Palmerston North to Wellington, once electrification of the rail line from Paraparaumu to Waikanae was completed.

CARRIED

PX PT 09-18

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bailey

that the Subcommittee moves out of Public Excluded.

CARRIED

The Public Excluded section of the meeting concluded at 3.02pm.

Confirmed

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN