

AGENDA

PASSENGER TRANSPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

**Tuesday
17 FEBRUARY 2009**

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Notice is given that a meeting of Horizons Regional Council will be held at 1.00pm on Tuesday, 17 February 2009 in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council offices, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

ORDER PAPER

Passenger Transport Subcommittee

Agenda Pages

Tuesday, 17 February 2009

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**RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT
COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL**

NEWS EMBARGO

Items in this agenda may be subject to amendment or withdrawal at the meeting. Items are embargoed until two days before the date of the meeting.

Reporters who do not attend the meetings should seek confirmation of the agenda material or proceedings from the Chief Executive prior to any media reports.



PASSENGER TRANSPORT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cr Vern Chettleburgh QSM ED (Chair)
Cr L Bailey
Cr A Main

Cr D Colling (Horowhenua District Council)
Cr A Anderson (Wanganui District Council)
Cr B Wilson (Palmerston North City Council)

AGENDA

17 February 2009
1.00pm

PART ONE

Page No

1. Apologies
2. Public Speaking Rights
Notification to speak is required by 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting. Further information is available on www.horizons.govt.nz or by phoning 0508 800 800
3. Late Items:
To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Committee to consider any further items which do not appear on the Order Paper of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded. Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:
 - (i) The reason why the item was not on the Order Paper, and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.
4. Members' Conflict of Interest
Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.
5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2008 1 - 6
6. Passenger Transport Update 7 - 12
Report No: 09-14
File No: GRP 3 06
7. Total Mobility and Concessionary Fare Scheme Update 13 - 18
Report No: 09-16
File No: TTM 2 00

8. Progress Report on Investigation into Wanganui-Palmerston North
Commuter Service

19 - 20

Report No: 09-17

File No: TPP 3 01

9. Members' Questions

PART TWO - PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

The public is to be excluded from the remainder of the Council 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 Confirmation of Minutes of 18 November 2008 Pgs 21 - 22	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.
PX2 Ashhurst – Palmerston North Tender Result <i>Report No. 09-18</i> Pgs 23 - 24	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.
PX3 Linton / Massey Late Night Services Tender <i>Report No. 09-19</i> Pg 25	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.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Minutes of the fifth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Missoula Room, Palmerston North City Council offices, The Square, Palmerston North at 1.00pm on Tuesday, 18 November 2008.

PRESENT	Crs V Chettleburgh (Chair), A Main, L Bailey (from 1.10pm), G Murfitt, D Colling, B Wilson, A Anderson	
IN ATTENDANCE	Manager Transport Services Committee Secretary	Mrs A Redgrave Mrs J A Kennedy
ALSO PRESENT	Cr M Guy, Ms K Lowe (Transport Planner), Mr W Wallace (Transport Planner)	
APOLOGIES	There were no apologies	

The Chair introduced Mr Wayne Wallace (Transport Planner) to Members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cr Main explained that she was absent from the meeting held on 25 August 2008 as she was attending a Hearing.

PT 08-41 **Moved** **Colling/Wilson**

that the minutes of the Passenger Transport Subcommittee meeting held on 25 August 2008, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

In response to Cr Main's request for an update on the Durie Hill Elevator Service, Mrs Redgarve advised that the application for funding was with the New Zealand Transport Agency and it was hoped that they would have a response to that very soon.

REVIEW OF LINTON / MASSEY LATE NIGHT SERVICE

Report No. 08-202

This report was to:

- a. inform Members that the contract for the Linton / Massey late night services was due to expire at the end of March 2009; and
- b. decide whether, and in what form, the services should continue.

Mr Wallace outlined the report and advised that the Massey service had achieved considerable growth over the past two years and therefore based on the evaluation criteria, there was no need to alter the service, and it should be re-tendered as is. The Linton service had shown considerable decline in patronage since the contract was last tendered, and therefore did not

meet the evaluation criteria as specified in the contract. The Defence Force was keen to retain the service and have therefore offered to fund the local share of the late night service. Horizons would look at a trialing a two days per week Linton shopper's service, subject to New Zealand's Transport Agency funding.

Members asked questions of clarification.

Members discussed the recommendations and amended recommendation (c)

PT 08-42

Moved

Chettleburgh/Wilson

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** this update on the review of the Massey/Linton passenger service contract;
- b. **approves** the re-tendering of the current Massey/Linton Late Night Services, with a final decision on the continuation of the service to be made in light of the tender price;
- c. **accepts** that the New Zealand Defence Force will provide the local share of funding for the Linton late night service; and
- d. **approves** tendering a two days per week Linton shopper's service on a one-year trial, subject to New Zealand Transport Agency funding.

CARRIED

REVIEW OF ASHHURST SERVICE

Report No. 08-204

This report was to:

- a. inform Members that the contract for the Ashhurst bus service was due to expire in February 2009; and
- b. decide whether, and in what form, the services should continue.

Mr Wallace introduced the report and advised that most of the patronage for 2007-08 on the service had been on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and that patronage on the Saturday service was very low. An option to increase the cost recovery of the service, to the level required in the Council's Regional Passenger Transport Plan, was to discontinue the Saturday service. A service would still exist for Ashhurst as Transit operated their commercial service in that area on Saturday.

Members discussed the recommendations and added a further recommendation (d).

PT 08-43**Moved****Wilson/Chettleburgh**

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the report on the review of the Ashhurst service;
- b. **approves** the re-tendering of the Ashhurst service as a Tuesday and Thursday shoppers service only, with a final decision on the continuation of the service to be made in light of the tender price; and
- c. **agrees** not to proceed with further investigation of a commuter service from Ashhurst at this time.
- d. **notes** that a Saturday service through Tranzit still exists.

CARRIED**PALMERSTON NORTH SERVICE REVIEW***Report No. 08-203*

This report was to decide on service scheduling options for the Palmerston North bus services.

Ms Lowe introduced the item and advised that Phase 1 and Phase II reports had been completed, and the final step was to decide on how to proceed with the changes outlined in those reports. Horizons undertook an economic evaluation of Options A and B as outlined in the Review, and Option B scored more favourably on all factors, and was therefore the preferred option overall.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of clarification.

Cr Wilson noted that the Fernlea Heights service was of a lower frequency than the service provided on other urban routes. He commented that passengers on the Fernlea Heights service should have the same expectation of frequency of service as provided on other routes.

PT 08-44**Moved****Chettleburgh/**

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **approves** the implementation of Option B service improvements on the Palmerston North Urban Bus Service commencing after July 2009, subject to approval of funding by the New Zealand Transport Agency and Horizons Regional Council.

CARRIED

GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT TARGETS FOR THE REGION

Report No. 08-206

This report was to update Members on the Government Policy Statement targets for the Horizons region.

Mr Wallace introduced the report and advised it was an information item for Members.

Members asked questions of clarification.

PT 08-45

Moved

Chettleburgh/

that the Subcommittee recommends that the Regional Transport Committee:

- a. **receives** the update on the Government Policy Statement targets and the regionalised targets for this region.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Anderson (Wanganui District Council) asked the Subcommittee for advice on how to go about implementing a plan for the upgrade of the Wanganui bus services, eg. improved bus shelters and terminal facilities. It was suggested that the Wanganui District Council draw up a proposal of what was required, and that Cr Anderson present the proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration.

In answer to a question Mr Wallace explained the criteria required to apply for funding of a project from the Community Transport Fund.

Members discussed the recent criticism of the Levin urban bus service for using smaller sized vehicles. Mrs Redgrave reminded Members of the discussion from the meeting held on 25 August 2008 where it was proposed to continue the service with a mini-bus in order to reduce the daily cost of the service.

PUBLIC EXCLUDED

PT 08-46

Moved

Chettleburgh/

that the public is to be excluded from the remainder of the Subcommittee 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:

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PX1 Confirmation of Minutes of 25 August 2008	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.
PX2 Palmerston North Bus Terminal Update <i>Report No. 08-205</i> <i>(Incl. Annex A)</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 2.24pm and resumed at 3.01pm.

The meeting closed at 3.02pm

Confirmed

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIRMAN

A Significant decision? If Yes	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy and LGA requirements?	

Item No: 6
Date: 17/02/2009
Report No: 09-14
File No: GRP 3 06

PASSENGER TRANSPORT UPDATE

PURPOSE

1. To update the Committee with the half-yearly passenger transport results.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. The cost of passenger transport services has been accounted for in the 2008-09 budgets.

WANGANUI AND PALMERSTON NORTH URBAN BUS SERVICES

3. Just over 417,000 passengers were carried on the Palmerston North Urban service from 1 July 2008 until 31 December 2009, including the Massey Unlimited Access Scheme. This compares with 360,000 passengers carried for the same period last year.
4. Expenditure on the Palmerston North Urban services for the first half of the year is sitting at 53% of the allocated budget. This figure does not include the Fernlea Heights service, which is discussed below.
5. Over 2,400 passengers travelled for free during December's Christmas promotions on all Palmerston North weekend services. Horizons Regional Council also provided two extra free services to transport people home after the Palmerston North Christmas parade. These carried 135 passengers at a cost to Horizons of \$180 (excluding GST).
6. Wanganui Urban bus service passenger numbers reached just over 74,000 for the period 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008, compared to 54,000 for the same period last year. 210 passengers also travelled for free on weekends throughout December, at a cost to Horizons of \$212 (excluding GST).

FERNLEA HEIGHTS SERVICE

7. In June 2007, Horizons Regional Council commenced operating a trial service to Fernlea Heights, a new residential area of Palmerston North. The service is operated under a gross contract by Tranzit Coachlines. In May 2008, this committee agreed to continue the Fernlea Heights service and incorporate it into the main Urban Services contract.
8. For the period to 31 December 2008, 8,937 passengers were carried on the Fernlea Heights service, compared with 6,000 for the same period last year. A new timetable with increased services at 1.50 pm and 2.25 pm began on 11 February 2008 and numbers on these services are growing.

PALMERSTON NORTH AND WANGANUI UCOL FREE SCHEME

9. Both UCOL Wanganui and UCOL Palmerston North operate unlimited access schemes for their students, which mean that students and staff are able to travel on all urban bus services at no cost.
10. Passenger trips for the first six months of this financial year totalled 26,986, compared with 24,300 for the same period last year. UCOL and UCOLSA continue to pay the local share of the cost, which means that there is no cost to Horizons Regional Council.

MASSEY UNIVERSITY AND LINTON LATE NIGHT SERVICES

11. Massey late night passenger numbers have increased in comparison with last year from 2,266 to 2,809. Massey University pays for the local share of the cost of these services, which means there is no cost to Horizons Regional Council.
12. Linton late night passengers have also increased from 949 to 1,096 for the same period last year. Fluctuations in passenger numbers can be attributed to the transient nature of the population of Linton and the movements of military personnel. The New Zealand Defence Force does not currently contribute to the cost of this service; however they have indicated they would be willing to provide the local share. Discussions are underway between Horizons and the Defence Force regarding this.
13. The contract for the above services expires 31 March 2009 and at the November meeting of this committee, members approved the re-tendering of the contract, with a final decision to be made in light of the tender price. The tender results are discussed elsewhere in this agenda.

WANGANUI – CASTLECLIFF SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

14. This service has been contracted by Tranzit Coachlines Wanganui since February 2008. Passenger numbers are down slightly compared to the same period last year from 11,118 to 10,362. This may be due to school rolls in local areas.
15. The service is running to budget and information posters have been distributed to schools in Wanganui.

ASHHURST SERVICES

16. The Ashhurst to Palmerston North service currently operates Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. 963 passengers were carried for the six month period to 31 December 2008, a slight decrease over the 972 carried for the same period last year. The service was also included in the free weekend promotion run in December and carried 17 passengers over three Saturdays.
17. In November 2008, members approved the re-tendering of the Ashhurst service as a Tuesday and Thursday shoppers service only, with a final decision on the continuation of the service to be made in light of the tender price. The results of the tender process, which closed on 22 January 2009, are discussed elsewhere in this agenda.

FEILDING SERVICES

18. Thirty two thousand, two hundred and fifty eight (32,258) passengers have been carried for the first half of this year compared to 30,340 for the same period last year.
19. The concessionary fare agreement between Horizons Regional Council and Madge Coachlines expired in June 2008 and Madge subsequently withdrew its commercial registration of the service. As this is an essential service specified in the Passenger Transport Plan 2006, Horizons negotiated an emergency contract with Madge for six months while a Request For Tender was issued in line with New Zealand Transport Agency's Competitive Pricing Procedures guidelines. The new contract, operated by Tranzit Coachlines, began on 5 January 2009.

LEVIN URBAN SERVICES

20. Passenger numbers in Levin continue to decline, with 1,693 travelling for the same period last year and only 1,151 for the first six months of this year. A new contract began on 1 November 2008, which utilises a mini-van rather than the larger bus that was previously used. There has been some feedback from the public regarding suitability of the new vehicle in terms of accessibility for passengers. Discussions are underway with Madge Coachlines and the New Zealand Transport Agency to explore the possibility of funding for a more suitable vehicle.

LEVIN COMMUTER SERVICES

21. The Levin Commuter service is currently operating under budget and passenger numbers are up from 3,976 for the same period last year to 5,011.

MARTON COMMUTER SERVICES

22. Two thousand, six hundred and thirteen (2,613) passengers utilised the service for the first half of this year, an increase from 1,672 for the same period last year. The service is currently running under budget.
23. Petrol price increases may have stimulated the increase in numbers on commuter services during 2008; however numbers remain above the monthly average for the 2007-08 year although fuel prices have dropped. This is encouraging as it indicates that passengers may have developed the habit of using public transport.

TAIHAPE SERVICES

24. The Taihape service contract expired on 1 September 2008 and members approved the re-tendering process. No tenders were received however, and the contracted service ceased on 31 October 2008. Since this time, a commercial operator has registered the service with Horizons. As this is a commercial service, patronage information is not available.

RAETIHI SERVICES

25. Eighty two (82) passengers were carried on this service for the first six months of the year, with 80 carried for the same period last year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

26. The Foxton Beach Community Van provides transport to hospitals and clinics in Foxton, Levin and Palmerston North. The service is operated by volunteer drivers and receives a concession payment from Horizons Regional Council for each passenger carried. The scheme is running under budget and has carried 805 passengers for the first half of the year, a decrease of 200 passengers from the same period last year.
27. Foxton Motor Coach Museum operates a weekly service between Foxton and Foxton Beach. The service is operating under budget at 40%. 421 passengers travelled on this service, a decrease from 534 compared with this time last year.
28. Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Services (PARS) provides transport to enable those without access to a vehicle to visit inmates at Linton prison. PARS is operating under budget and passenger numbers remain consistent.
29. One thousand, two hundred (1,200) passengers have been carried on the Levin Community Van for the first half of this year and the service is operating under budget.

PROMOTION OF SERVICES

30. Horizons undertook a free week promotion during the July 2008 school holidays on supported services in Palmerston North, Wanganui, Feilding, Levin and Ashhurst. The purpose of this promotion was to give people who are not regular bus users an opportunity to try the services.
31. Extensive advertising was done across the region in preparation for the promotion and Tamati Coffey, reporter and weatherman for TV One's Breakfast show broadcast live from the Main Street terminal in Palmerston North.
32. Over 28,000 passengers travelled for free during this promotion. In Palmerston North, 22,876 trips were recorded for the free week compared with just 9,960 during the first week of the winter school holidays in 2007. Of those free week passengers, 10,522 were passengers who would normally have paid a fare, the remainder being Massey or UCOL staff and students who already travel for free. 96,800 passengers were carried in Palmerston North during July 2008 (compared with 67,000 for July 2007), the highest number ever carried in July.
33. The table below shows the breakdown of passengers carried during the free week by area:

Service	Number of passengers
Palmerston North	22,891
Wanganui	3,351
Fielding	1,975
Levin Urban	91
Levin Commuter	240
Marion Commuter	106
Ashhurst	96
TOTAL	28,750

SUPERGOLD CARD FREE OFF-PEAK TRAVEL

34. Early in 2008, the government announced funding of \$18 million per year for four years for free off-peak bus, rail and ferry travel for SuperGold Card holders. The scheme was launched on 1 October 2008 and the results per service are shown in Figures 1 and 2 below.

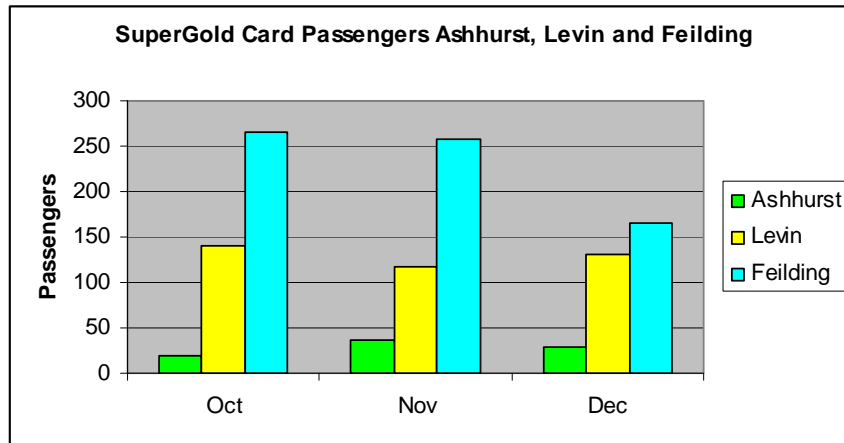


Figure 1

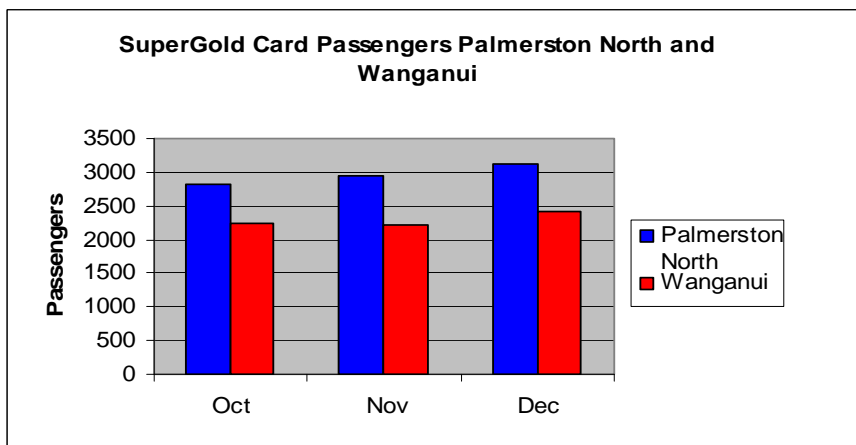


Figure 2

RECOMMENDATIONS

35. It is recommended that the Subcommittee:
- a. **receives** the six monthly results for passenger transport services supported by Horizons Regional Council.

K M Lowe
TRANSPORT PLANNER

A Significant decision? If Yes	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy and LGA requirements?	

Item No: 7
Date: 17/02/2008
Report No: 09-16
File No: TTM 2 00

TOTAL MOBILITY AND CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME UPDATE

PURPOSE

1. This report is to inform members -
 - a. of the cost and patronage of Total Mobility and some concessionary fare schemes in the six months to December 2008; and
 - b. update members on current developments in Total Mobility.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. Already accounted for in 2008-09 Long-term Council Community Plan.

OVERVIEW

3. Across the Region there are currently 4,852 people using the scheme which is an increase of 300 people over the last 12 months. There have been 1200 ID cards issued to users over this period. The savings from the in-house production of ID cards, of around \$1,000 per month, means there is more money which can be used in taxi subsidies.
4. January, a traditionally quieter month, has gone against the trend this year with a significant increase in new assessments. In the first few weeks of the year 56 new users have joined the scheme.

GENERAL UPDATE

TOTAL MOBILITY REVIEW

5. In June 2008 we agreed to implement the Phase two recommendations from the Total Mobility review. This increases the central government subsidy from 50% to 60%.
6. Of the 11 recommendations made, we currently meet the criteria for five. The recommendations which require further work are:
 - a. Local authorities enter into contracts with transport operators, aligned with the guidelines produced by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).
A contract with taxi companies has been developed and negotiated with the two taxi companies in Wanganui. This will then be taken to the 10 taxi companies in Palmerston North, Levin, Feilding, Marton, Dannevirke and Taumarunui.
 - b. Local authorities enter into contracts with assessment agencies, aligned with guidelines produced by NZTA.
A contract with assessment agencies has been developed and is currently being negotiated with agencies in Wanganui. Of the 12 agencies in Wanganui 5 have currently signed up. This contract will then be taken to the other 34 agencies in the Region.

- c. Local authorities must determine maximum subsidised fares for the Total Mobility scheme in negotiation with NZTA taking into account the NZ Travel Survey, and review them three yearly.
A review of maximum subsidies will be undertaken once contracts are in place with all taxi companies and assessment agencies.
- d. Local authorities improve their administration systems for the allocation and redemption of trip entitlement vouchers.
Three years ago we started supplying a database system to agencies which allows them to accurately track the distribution of vouchers they send out to their Total Mobility users. Voucher Track has been very effective in reducing administration time for the agencies and providing statistics of voucher distribution, however the large number of requests for installations and re-installations have not always been acted on, as fast as we would like. To make the system more efficient and to reduce the amount of time needed to maintain the system we are now working on a web-based system. This will alleviate the need to physically install the software on the computers at each agency and will allow up-dates to the system to be immediately available to all agencies. It will also allow the co-ordinator to have instant access to the statistical data. Other regional councils have expressed interest in using this system.
- e. Local authorities establish systems for data collection, monitoring and evaluation.
On-going.

HOIST FLAT PAYMENT

- 7. A flat payment of \$10.00 (GST incl) for operators of hoist taxis has been in operation in this Region for just over 12 months. This payment is 100% funded by NZTA and administered by Regional Councils.
- 8. Six companies operate hoist vehicles in our Region and in the past six months 8931 trips have been made at a net cost of \$79,396.59.
- 9. The introduction of this payment was not without problems; however these have largely been resolved now.

FOCUS ON THE REGION

- 10. Over the past three months it has been an endeavour to spend one day a week working from other towns within the Region, where the scheme operates. The hope is that this focus will result in increased awareness of the scheme and improve the quality of service to both the Total Mobility users and the agencies in these areas. Wanganui is the first area being concentrated on, and this has tied in successfully with contract negotiations with agencies and taxi companies.

FIELD DAYS MOBILITY SCOOTERS

- 11. Planning is well underway to provide the free use of mobility scooters to people who are unable to walk around Central Districts Field Days, 12-14 March. At last year's Field Days over 40 people booked scooters with several more asking for help on the day, after over-estimating their ability to get around the event. Our scooter supplier, A1 Wheelchairs, went to extraordinary lengths to make sure that everyone who needed help, got it, whether it was a mobility scooter or a wheelchair. Bookings for the scooters are now being taken and we expect to be fully booked out again this year.

PALMERSTON NORTH TOTAL MOBILITY

12. A total of 35,761 passengers have been carried over the first six months of this financial year, which is a decrease of 6,214 on the same period last year. There are now 1,949 people using Total Mobility in the city, which is a net increase of 180 people in the past year. The average voucher subsidy is \$5.71 (GST excl) an increase of 25c in the past year.
13. Palmerston North is currently running 1.7% over its subsidy budget of \$322,000 and a further \$20,000 is ear-marked for another hoist installation.
14. There are currently four taxi companies providing the Total Mobility service in Palmerston North. Sixteen agencies, as well as the Total Mobility coordinator, are providing assessment and voucher distribution to Total Mobility clients in Palmerston North.

WANGANUI TOTAL MOBILITY

15. The Wanganui scheme has carried a total of 20,720 passengers in the past six months, which is comparable to the same period last year. The average voucher subsidy is now \$5.68 (GST excl) which is an increase of \$1.19 on the same period last year.
16. Wanganui has 1,225 current users which is a net increase of approximately 70 people in the past year.
17. Wanganui is on budget with expenditure of \$88,340 in the first six months of the year from a subsidy budget of \$180,000. A further \$20,000 has been allocated for a hoist replacement which will be applied in the next month.
18. Twelve disability agencies and the Total Mobility coordinator are providing assessment and voucher distribution services to Total Mobility clients in Wanganui.

LEVIN TOTAL MOBILITY

19. In the past six months 18,204 passengers trips have been made, an increase of 504 on the same period last year. There are 790 people using the scheme in Levin which is a net increase of 55 people in the last 12 months.
20. Levin average voucher subsidies continue to be relatively low with an increase of 81 c bringing the current average trip subsidy to \$3.98 (GST excl).
21. Levin is currently at 50% of its \$108,000 budget at the six month period.

FEILDING TOTAL MOBILITY

22. Feilding Total Mobility passenger numbers, which had been steadily declining for the past three years, showed an increase in this period to 8,705, an increase of 1,200 over the past year.
23. Expenditure is correspondingly more with expenditure at the six month period 5.6% over budget. The average voucher subsidy has shown a marked increase from \$2.82 to \$3.47 (GST incl). Despite increases in tariff this subsidy still remains the one of the lowest in the Region.
24. There has also been a net increase in the number of people on the scheme with 461 current users, up from 421 for the same period last year.

25. Feilding Senior Citizens was a Total Mobility assessment agency for many years and more recently they have just distributed vouchers for the scheme. Over the past few years they have had difficulty finding volunteers to run their organisation and consequently they closed their doors at the end of 2008. Fortunately Manchester House has stepped into the breach and have taken the Senior Citizens members onto their books.

MARTON TOTAL MOBILITY

26. Marton Total Mobility numbers have shown a net increase of eight in the past six months with a total of 154 people now accessing the scheme. Passenger trips over the past six months were 1,650, an increase of 40 on the same period last year. The average voucher subsidy has shown a slight increase rising 13 c to \$3.28 (GST excl).
27. Expenditure in Marton is currently running 9% under budget with \$5,701.00 of the \$14,000 budget spent.
28. In Marton Total Mobility assessments and voucher distribution is undertaken by one independent assessor.

TAUMARUNUI TOTAL MOBILITY

29. Taumarunui has 203 people on the scheme, a net increase of 27 people since the same period last year. There have been 2037 trips taken in the past six months which is a decrease of 332 in the same period last year.
30. The average voucher subsidy in Taumarunui is \$5.01 (GST excl) an increase of 56 c
31. Taumarunui expenditure is slightly under budget at present at 41.83% and if current trends continue it is expected that Taumarunui will finish the year 10% under budget.
32. It was noted in the February 2008 report that there was a need to identify a second assessment agency in Taumarunui. The existing agency was only open 20 hours per week and this was limiting residents access to assessment services and collection of voucher books. Consequently Taumarunui Hospital has since joined the scheme and is now providing an assessment service.

DANNEVIRKE TOTAL MOBILITY

33. A Total Mobility service has now been operating in Dannevirke for two years with one Taxi Company and Anglican Social Services providing an assessment service.
34. Despite advertising in the local paper awareness of the scheme, up-take remains low.
35. There are currently 89 people on Total Mobility, which is an increase of 18 in the past year.
36. In the six months to December 2008, 661 passenger trips have been made at a total cost of \$2174.85 with an average voucher subsidy of \$3.78 (GST excl).

CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEMES

TARARUA ORDER OF ST JOHN

37. Tararua Order of St John provides a service for people needing access to health services in either Palmerston North or in the Dannevirke urban area.
38. They are paid either \$1 per head for those making a local trip or \$5 per head for those travelling to Palmerston North.
39. An average of 153 people have travelled on this service each month which is a reduction on the same period last year when 231 people used the service. This can be attributed to the establishment of the South Tararua Health Shuttle service. By far the greatest majority of passengers travel between Dannevirke and Palmerston North.
40. Current expenditure is \$5,288.00 (GST excl). It is expected that this service will finish the year within 5% of the allocated \$14,000 budget.

FEILDING ORDER OF ST JOHN

41. Feilding Order of St John provides assistance for people to access health services in Palmerston North for which they are paid \$1.50 per passenger. In the first six months of this year there has been a significant increase in the number of people using this service from 1,084 last year to 1,758 this year.
42. The expenditure to December 2008 was \$2,637 and this service is reach its maximum annual subsidy of \$3,400.

TAUMARUNUI MOBILITY VAN SERVICE

43. The Taumarunui Mobility Van Service has provided a service for those Taumarunui people who are unable to use the taxi service, for about 11 years. The van is used primarily for people to attend day care at the hospital and attend physiotherapy.
44. The van was also used to transport school children under a separate contract with Special Education Services. This contract has recently been awarded to another company, which will affect the ability of the Trust to meet the operational costs of this van. However, at this stage, it is too early to see the impact of the loss of this contract. Patronage of this service has remained steady and looks to reflect passenger numbers of the previous year. It is expected that the service will finish the year under its annual budget of \$8,000.

SOUTH TARARUA ORDER OF ST JOHN

45. The South Tararua Health Shuttle was established in March 2007 to provide a door-to-door service for people needing to access health services within the South Tararua area and to Palmerston North hospital.
46. The van is wheelchair accessible and fourteen volunteers have been trained with each trip staffed by one driver and a helper.
47. A three month trial was instigated in March 2007 with a \$1 subsidy for local trips and \$3.50 to Palmerston North. The Palmerston North subsidy was increased to \$4 when the 12 month contract was signed in June 2008.

48. In the six months to December 2008, 605 people have used this service at a cost of \$1990.00 (GST EX). It is anticipated that the service will finish the year close to its allocated budget of \$3,600.

HOROWHENUA HEALTH SHUTTLE

49. The Horowhenua District Health Transportation Trust commenced operation on 4 February 2008. The service began operating on a twice daily basis but has since increased the frequency of trips and now makes a return trip to Palmerston North five times a day from Monday to Friday.
50. Horizons Regional Council allocated a maximum subsidy of \$10,000 for the 2009-10 financial year, but as a result of a submission to the Draft Annual Plan, the budget for the 2009-10 financial year was increased to \$30,000.
51. In the six months to December 2008, 4,995 people were carried at a cost of \$19,980 (ex GST) These figures do not include dialysis patients whose travel is subsidised are funded by Mid Central Health.
52. The Health Shuttle celebrates its first year of operation this week with a total of 8,060 passenger trips recorded in the first 12 months of operation.
53. A volunteer has now joined the co-ordinator and assists with booking and phone enquires each morning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

54. It is recommended that the Subcommittee:
- a. **notes** the general Total Mobility update and the six month results for the Total Mobility Schemes in Palmerston North, Feilding, Wanganui, Levin, Marton, Foxton, Taumarunui and Dannevirke, and for Concessionary Fare Schemes in Feilding, Taumarunui and Tararua.

V Patton

TOTAL MOBILITY COORDINATOR

A Significant decision? If Yes	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

Item No: 8
Date: 17/02/2009
Report No: 09-17
File No: TPP 3 01

PROGRESS REPORT ON INVESTIGATION INTO WANGANUI – PALMERSTON NORTH COMMUTER SERVICE

PURPOSE

1. This report is to inform Members of the investigation into a Wanganui - Palmerston North commuter service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. The cost of the proposed Wanganui - Palmerston North commuter service has been accounted for in the 2008-09 budgets.

BACKGROUND

3. In 2008 Horizons received a submission on its draft Annual Plan from Wanganui District Council requesting the trial of a commuter bus service between Wanganui and Palmerston North. Horizons has also had a number of requests for this from members of the public. As a result of the submission Horizons budgeted \$30,000 in the 2008-09 Annual Plan for the investigation and trial of a service.

COMMENT

4. The Universal College of Learning (UCOL) currently provides a free bus service between its Wanganui and Palmerston North campuses for students and staff only. This service operates only during semester times and is paid for by UCOL.
5. The service arrives at the Palmerston North campus at 7.45 am and then departs again for Wanganui arriving at the Wanganui campus at 9.05 am. In the evening the bus departs Wanganui at 3.40 pm to arrive in Palmerston North at 4.45 pm. It then departs Palmerston North at 5.05 pm to be back in Wanganui at 6.05 pm.
6. Without duplicating the service already offered by UCOL, officers of Horizons have been in discussions with representatives of UCOL about the possibility of opening up the service to the general public for the purpose of operating a trial commuter service. This has been formally agreed to by UCOL.
7. As it is proposed to be a public passenger service, as defined in the Public Transport Management Act 2008, Horizons would require the service to be tendered. Funding assistance will be sought from the New Zealand Transport Agency to contribute to the operation of the service.
8. At the time of writing this item ongoing discussions were taking place between UCOL and Horizons to finalise further details regarding the provision of the service.
9. If these discussions are favourable it is hoped to have a trial underway before the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the Subcommittee:
 - a. **receives** the update on the investigation into a Wanganui – Palmerston North commuter bus service.

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