

Minutes of the eighth meeting of the twelfth triennium of the Passenger Transport Committee held at 10.00am on Tuesday 17 June 2025, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

**PRESENT** Crs SD Ferguson (Chair), RJ Keedwell, JM Naylor, AR Taylor, A Short (Manawatū District Council - *via Zoom*), B Barrett (Palmerston North City Council), J Wong (Rangitīkei District Council), A Franklin (Tararua District Council), and Mr A Tonnon (Whanganui District Council).

**IN ATTENDANCE** Manager Transport Services Mr M Read  
Group Manager Regional Services and Information Mr G Shirley  
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** At various times during the meeting:  
Mrs C Hesselin (Acting Group Manager Corporate & Governance), Mr I Mills (Senior Transport Planner), Mr M Bray (Transport Planner), Mrs J Thorby (Senior Transport Planner), Ms M Herbert (Communication Advisor), Mr M Wasley (Member of the Public), and Mrs J Rankin (Manawatū Standard).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with a Karakia.

#### **APOLOGIES**

**PT 25-51** **Moved** **Ferguson/Keedwell**

*That the Committee receives an apology from Cr Nottage (Ruapehu District Council).*

**CARRIED**

#### **PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS**

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

#### **MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**PT 25-52** **Moved** **Tonnon/Barrett**

*That the Committee:*

**confirms** the minutes of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 18 March 2025 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 25 March 2025.

**CARRIED**

**PALMERSTON NORTH BUS NETWORK - 1 YEAR UPDATE**

*Report No 25-80*

Mr Mills (Senior Transport Planner) introduced the item, which summarised Year 1 of the Palmerston North Bus Contract (4 March to 3 March 2025). The report highlighted ridership, demographics, service punctuality, infrastructure, and challenges to date and into year 2. Members considered the report, sought clarification around some of the activities and spoke favourably about the improvements and increased patronage.

**PT 25-53                      Moved    Barrett/Keedwell**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-80 and Annex.*

**CARRIED**

**WHANGANUI BUS NETWORK REVIEW - NEW NETWORK**

*Report No 25-81*

Mrs Thorby (Senior Transport Planner) spoke to the item which presented the reviewed design for Whanganui’s Public Transport network, and sought endorsement to be implemented in April 2026. Members considered the proposed option outlined in Section 9, sought clarification around the consultation approach, and provided suggestions for service improvements.

**PT 25-54                      Moved    Taylor/Tonnon**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-81 and Annexes.*
- b. *endorses the proposed option as outlined in Section 9 of this report for the new bus network Whanganui.*

**CARRIED**

**PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES GENERAL UPDATE**

*Report No 25-82*

Mr Read (Manager Transport Services) summarised the item which provided an update on public transport services, their performance and updated on projects taking place across the region and nationally. Members provided comment and sought clarification around some of the activities and projects.

Members reflected on the gains made in public transport services, acknowledged the efforts of staff, and the leadership of the Chair and Committee members.

**PT 25-55                      Moved    Tonnon/Naylor**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 25-82 and Annexes.*

**CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 11.17am with a Karakia from the Chair.

Confirmed

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MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

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CHAIR

UNCONFIRMED