

Minutes of the ninth meeting of the tenth triennium of the Passenger Transport Committee held at 10.00am on Tuesday 18 June 2019, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs RJ Keedwell (Chair), EB Gordon JP (ex officio), NJ Patrick (via audiovisual link), JM Naylor, PW Rieger, QSO JP, CI Sheldon, B Barrett (Palmerston North City Council), C Ash (Rangitikei District Council), G Young (Whanganui District Council), Cr G Cosford (Ruapehu District Council) (via audiovisual link), Cr S Hull (Tararua District Council), Mayor H Worboys (Manawatu District Council).

IN ATTENDANCE Manager Transport Services Mr P Hindrup
Group Manager Regional
Services and Information Mr G Shirley
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Mrs K Curry (Senior Transport Planner), Ms Y Shirley (Transport Planner), Mrs D Monks (Total Mobility Coordinator), Mrs D Webster (Transport Systems Advisor), Mrs M Smith (Communications Officer), Mr L Rohloff and Ms M Williams (GreyPower representatives), Mr A Tonnon (Public Forum), Ms A Joblin (Deputation).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

Public Forum:

Mr Tonnon summarised his ideas for improvements to the Whanganui Bus services. He believed the current transport services needed an overhaul to accommodate the needs of a growing city. Mr Tonnon clarified Members' questions.

Deputation:

Ms Joblin advocated for the retention of the Palmerston North late night bus services. She outlined her use of the service and her ideas for advertising to promote the service and encourage patronage. She also supported an improved service to the Palmerston North hospital, airport and train station. Ms Joblin clarified Members' questions.

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 19-65 Moved Keedwell/Rieger

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 19 February 2019 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 26 February 2019.

CARRIED

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES REPORT 1 JULY TO 31 MARCH 2019

Report No 19-96

This item updated Members on the performance of contracted public transport services for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019. Mrs Curry (Senior Transport Planner) introduced the item, guided Members through the tables in the report outlining the performance of the various bus services, clarified Members’ questions relating to farebox recovery percentages, and explained the bulk allocation funding for SuperGold.

PT 19-66 Moved Gordon/Sheldon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-96 and Annex.

CARRIED

PALMERSTON NORTH TRIAL BUS SERVICE EXTENDED WEEKDAY HOURS

Report No 19-97

This item reviewed the performance of the Palmerston North Urban bus service extended weekday hours trial and determined the appropriate level of service for the future. Mr Hindrup (Manager Transport Services) summarised a series of graphs which gave an analysis on the performance of the services provided over the past 12 months. Although patronage had increased since the trial commenced, he emphasised it was still less than desirable with a low farebox recovery percentage. Data provided showed that the 6.40pm service was the most utilised. Members provided their views and preferences for a way forward with comments around the impact to both the community and the city should the services be discontinued. Due to the low level of patronage, some Members believed the investment of ratepayer funding could not be justified.

Following discussion, Cr Gordon moved recommendations a. and b.ii. The Chair separated out the recommendations.

PT 19-67 Moved Gordon/Naylor

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-97.

CARRIED.

As the votes were equal, the Chair exercised her casting vote against the motion.

Moved

Gordon/Naylor

- b. *recommends that the extended weekday hours of operation of the Palmerston North urban bus services be:*
 - ii. *continued with only the 6.40pm service continuing to operate following one months' notice to the public transport provider and public.*

LOST

A foreshadowed motion to retain the status quo was put by the Chair.

As the votes were equal, the Chair exercised her casting vote in favour of the motion.

The Chair noted that the recommendations would be open for debate at the next Council meeting.

PT 19-68

Moved

Sheldon/Patrick

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *retains the current extended weekday hours of operation of the Palmerston North urban bus services with no changes.*

CARRIED

MARTON TO PALMERSTON NORTH BUS SERVICE REVIEW AND RE-TENDER

Report No 19-98

This item reported on the performance of the Marton to Palmerston North bus services and sought approval to retender the service. Ms Shirley (Transport Planner) introduced the report, highlighted a series of graphs which provided an analysis on the performance of the service, and provided an update on upcoming promotions.

PT 19-69

Moved

Sheldon/Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-98;*
- b. *approves the continuity and in turn, re-tender of this service for a three year period, commencing in February 2020.*

CARRIED

REPORT ON TOTAL MOBILITY FARE REVIEW 2018-19

Report No 19-99

This report informed the Committee on the Total Mobility (TM) fare review work recently undertaken and sought a decision on whether subsidy levels needed to be increased. Mrs Monks (Total Mobility Coordinator) took Members through the findings of the TM analysis and highlighted points of interest. Mr Hindrup (Manager Transport Services) explained the potential cost of increasing subsidies across the board. Cr Sheldon foreshadowed a recommendation to increase the Feilding TM subsidy to \$10 and explained why. In explaining recommendation c. Mr Hindrup said there was no guarantee that the New Zealand Transport Agency would be able to meet their funding equivalent should the Committee confirm a subsidy increase for Feilding. Members considered the recommendations, provided their comments, and sought clarification as required.

The foreshadowed recommendation was incorporated into recommendation b. with recommendation c. being deleted.

PT 19-70 **Moved** **Sheldon/Patrick**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-99 and Annex.
- b. recommends that the maximum subsidy available for all districts remain at current levels except for Feilding which increases to \$10 subject to New Zealand Transport Agency contribution;
- d. notes that officers will continue to work with **New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA)** officials to investigate securing additional funding earlier than the 2021-31 NLTP, to allow for earlier subsidy increases if necessitated.

CARRIED

REPORT ON HOROWHENUA TOTAL MOBILITY QUALITY SURVEY 2018-19

Report No 19-100

This report informed the Committee on the Total Mobility (TM) Horowhenua quality survey work recently undertaken and ensured the TM services were being delivered in Horowhenua to a high standard. Mrs Monks (Total Mobility Coordinator) summarised the positive results of the survey, noting an action point to investigate and report back to Horizons in regard to Call Centre arrangements.

PT 19-71 **Moved** **Sheldon/Naylor**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-100 and Annex.

CARRIED

GREEN TRAVEL CARD

Report No 19-101

This item informed the Committee of the recent central government work stream on the Green Transport Card. Mrs Curry (Senior Transport Planner) spoke to the item and explained that the government had commenced investigations into the introduction of a Green Transport Card (green card) to provide cheaper public transport options specifically targeted at community service card holders. In discussing the item it was suggested that all low earners would benefit from the use of a green card. Mrs Curry confirmed that no firm decisions had been made.

PT 19-72 **Moved** **Naylor/Rieger**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-101.

CARRIED

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT - BUS DRIVER BREAKS

Report No 19-102

This report discussed the recently enacted Employment Relations Amendment Act 2018 (ERAA) and the law change for drivers regarding breaks. It also discussed potential implications for Horizons bus contracts. Mr Hindrup (Manager Transport Services) explained the purpose and main changes of the Act, and outlined the contents of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the relevant parties to enable a smoother transition of the new legislation. Mr Hindrup responded to Members’ questions and provided clarification around any potential cost implications to Palmerston North bus contracts.

PT 19-73 Moved Sheldon/Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-102.*

CARRIED

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

PT 19-74 Moved Keedwell/Sheldon

THAT the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each 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 follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 and section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

CARRIED

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Meeting held on 19 February 2019	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX2 Council / Committee to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain and define the extent of the release		
PX3 Members’ Questions		

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 11.58am.

CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2019

PX PT 19-13 Moved Keedwell/Sheldon

That the minutes of the confidential part of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 19 February 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record

CARRIED

PX PT 19-14 Moved Rieger/Keedwell

That the Committee moves out of Public Excluded

CARRIED

The Public Excluded section of the meeting concluded at 11.59am.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.

Confirmed

MANAGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

CHAIR